

**Charles B. Galbreath: Progressive Librarian, Scholar, Poet,
and Promoter of Ohio History, 1858-1934**

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Portrait of Charles Burleigh Galbreath signed by Ivan Hoon, Ohio artist
born in East Palestine, Columbiana County, Ohio
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Introduction

Charles Burleigh Galbreath built a reputation in Ohio for his contributions to libraries, public affairs, and promoting Ohio history between 1896 and 1934. As State Librarian at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus he served from 1896-1911, 1915-1918, and 1927-1929. At the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (referred to below as either OSAHS or the Society) Galbreath worked as Secretary, Editor, and Librarian from 1920-1934. With an academic and professional background in teaching and educational administration, Galbreath became an agent of change and progress in Ohio libraries. He excelled at library management, the development of collections and reference services, and improving public access to library resources. He promoted books, reading, and appreciation for local history to all citizens of the state. Galbreath's connections with state government, developed in his roles in state library and historical agencies, enhanced his knowledge of people and political processes in Ohio and deepened his skill as a library leader and influential person in the state. As an outspoken political activist in the Republican Party, he was involved in progressive public policy advocacy and advising potential Republican candidates for public office, but he was trusted across party lines. Galbreath participated in updating the state constitution and reforming the organization of state government. Also, he devoted much of his time to historical research, publishing, and writing poetry that made him well known beyond Ohio.

Galbreath's career occurred during a period of Progressive Era reforms intended to enhance American democracy through social, political, and economic justice. The reforms sought to reduce the ill effects of large, monopolistic corporations, industrialization, urbanization, and domination of management over labor. The period of reform also emphasized expertise in government and public affairs and greater educational opportunities to middle and

working class Americans in rural and urban areas. In this environment of reform there was tremendous public and private investment in libraries and greater professionalization of library work and public history in the United States. This study of Galbreath's life and career focuses on the basis for his progressive vision and his tireless efforts to enhance democracy by extending educational opportunity in Ohio with library, museum and archive services and collections.

There are many brief biographical sketches of Galbreath,¹ but there are major impediments to deeper research on Galbreath's life and career. Charles, his wife Ida, and son Albert left no collections of personal papers that I could find, but there are primary sources that offer insight into the man and his accomplishments. The state archives at the Ohio History Connection (formerly OSAHS followed by Ohio Historical Society) have several useful collections. The most significant is the Galbreath correspondence in the "Secretary, Editor, and Librarian's Correspondence Files, 1920-1946" (henceforth referred to as SELC Files) that provide details of his work at OSAHS and a limited amount related to the State Library. The papers illustrate his professional writing style, knowledge of sources, passion for communicating with colleagues and citizens looking for information and engaging with history through his own research and writing. The collection includes correspondence about the nearly two years when he held positions at both the Society and State Library from August 1927 to February 1929. Galbreath's personal affairs occasionally emerge in correspondence with library patrons, colleagues, and political friends in the Republican Party.

Additional resources offered important information on Galbreath and his work. The Ohio History Connection contains additional papers including a small collection of "Charles B. Galbreath Papers" containing correspondence on political affairs and his poetry. The correspondence generated at the State Library during Galbreath's time there were lost except for

a few letters preserved in the [Ohio Memory](#) database reflecting on his work with the State Library's summer library school. In addition to these collections, other valuable primary sources support this study. The resources include annual reports or proceedings from the State Library of Ohio and OSAHS, minutes of the State Library Board of Commissioners, the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* that Galbreath edited and wrote articles for, and the *Columbus Dispatch* newspaper. The *Dispatch* followed major developments at the State Library and the Society closely and considered Galbreath to be one of the outstanding leaders and scholars in the community for his work as a library administrator, historian, and poet. The paper highlighted Galbreath's work and achievements with articles, photographs, publication of his poetry, and illustrations of him.

Galbreath was known for his personal modesty or "Quaker modesty" as he might have said about himself given his Quaker upbringing. This may explain the lack of personal papers that could be found. In an interview with the *Columbus Dispatch* on November 11, 1922 a reporter highlighted Galbreath's historical research and described him as "one of the most widely read men in the country." Galbreath explained that "there is nothing eventful about my life...It's just one made up of digging into old records and setting forth the results in historical form for the state records."² His friend Burton Stevenson, director of the American Library in Paris, commented in 1926 that Galbreath's multifaceted job title - Secretary, Editor, and Librarian shown on OSAHS letterhead, was "formidable." Galbreath wrote back saying that "I am, as you suggest 'formidable,' but it is only on paper and at a distance."³

Family Background and Early Career

Galbreath's life was to a great extent influenced by his family background in abolitionism, reformed Quakerism, and farm life. He was born on February 25, 1858, the first child of Edward and Jane Minerva (Shaw) Galbreath who would have four more children in the next nine years. The family lived on a farm in Fairfield Township of Columbiana County in northeastern Ohio where Edward himself was born in 1832. Edward's parents, David and Sarah W. (Paxson) Galbreath, migrated the Quaker family to the Northwest Territory from North Carolina in 1803, the year Ohio became a state, along with hundreds of other Quakers seeking land and opportunity to live where slavery was not allowed based on the Ordinance of 1787.⁴ Since 1750 Quaker reformers viewed slavery as an evil that God wanted to end, and by the late 18th century it became clear that their antislavery views were not welcome in the South.

By the 1830s the Galbreaths and many other Quakers around Columbiana County put aside orthodox Quakerism in favor of Hicksite Quaker reforms that reduced the influence of church hierarchy and dogma. However, consistent with traditional Quakerism, Hicksite Quakers retained conservative Quaker quietism, pacifism, and rejection of involvement with public affairs and political parties. In his history of the antislavery movement in Columbiana County, Charles Galbreath wrote that most Quakers believed that abolitionist violence was "narrow-minded and fanatical."⁵ By 1840s-1850s the Galbreaths supported an activist program against slavery. Charles described his grandfather, David Galbreath, as a strict Quaker but also an ardent abolitionist who helped slaves passing through Ohio to escape slavery.⁶ In 1845 David served on the publishing committee of the *Anti-Slavery Bugle* newspaper published first in New Lisbon and then Salem, Ohio by the Ohio American Anti-Slavery Society and later the Western Anti-Slavery Society. The *Bugle* defined itself as an "organ of agitation and propaganda for the anti-slavery

cause” and both David and Charles’ father Edward made donations to the paper.⁷ Charles believed that his grandfather’s Hicksite Quaker church near Salem hosted famous abolitionist orators of the day such as William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Charles C. Burleigh. His first and middle names are from Burleigh.⁸

By 1852 the Galbreaths supported a Progressive Quaker faction among the Hicksites and actively pursued its public agenda. They faced the dilemma of a pacifist tradition with increasing frustration over slavery. Historian Ryan P. Jordan notes that “there was nothing peaceful about American abolitionists and the Quakers who supported them...The dilemma of the Quaker anti-slavery testimony revealed the inability of a group that in many ways represented the vanguard of the white conscience to successfully combine opposition to slavery with support for the union.”⁹ When the war came many young Quakers in Eastern Ohio, including two of Charles’ cousins, enlisted in the Union Army and one was killed at the Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing). He described his grandfather’s own dilemma reconciling his “strict Hicksite Quaker” views with support for radical abolition as his grandsons volunteered to fight.¹⁰ In addition to the goal of eradicating slavery from the nation, the Progressive Quaker faction supported temperance, abolishing capital punishment, equality of men and women, and women’s suffrage.¹¹

Charles Galbreath would incorporate his family’s activist social reform and assimilated Quaker heritage into his professional and personal life. He seemed to combine “Christian ideals” and deep religiosity with emphasis on rationalism and a rejection of religious dogma.¹² The only documentation of Charles’ connection to Quakerism in his adult years was after he moved to Columbus in 1896 to take the position of State Librarian. On November 8, 1903 Galbreath participated with nine other persons in the founding of a Friends’ Association in the city.

Officers were chosen and Galbreath volunteered to serve on the executive committee. A week later a second meeting and a program on the history of the Friends was held with seventeen attendees. A description of the meeting noted that “many in attendance have seldom had the privilege of attending Friends gatherings, yet through all the years of their lives have kept the faith of their parents.”¹³ The following March Galbreath attended another meeting of the Friends Association and delivered a presentation on the Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier. The association chair, John Carpenter, described the talk as “a beautiful tribute, describing the poet chiefly as an exemplification of Quakerism” and emphasizing Whittier’s reformist Quaker tendencies.¹⁴ Galbreath would later describe Whittier as a “sane reformer.... not of those chronic disturbers who oppose everything simply because they seem to have been born in the objective case.” He noted the poet’s “broad-minded liberality, his tolerant attitude.”¹⁵ Whittier seemed to be a model for Galbreath’s approach to public works and his avocation as a poet. Further evidence of his Quaker views was his rejection of the death penalty. In 1907 he published an essay questioning the effectiveness, morality, and justice of capital punishment.¹⁶

There are indications that Galbreath’s participation in the Quaker association did not last beyond a few years, or possibly the Columbus Friends Association was not a viable organization. In 1916 and 1917 the *Columbus Dispatch* reported that Charles’ wife Ida hosted two meetings of the Ladies Association of All Soul’s Church.¹⁷ The church, founded in 1907 in Columbus by former Universalist pastor Dr. E. L. Rexford, was a “non-sectarian and non-dogmatic church” dedicated to “the dissemination of rational religious-thinking in the community at large” and a church sympathizing with “all reverent and earnest seekers after truth...[and] faith in the brotherhood of all souls.” In its first four weeks the congregation attracted 170 members among

whom were “the strongest liberal elements of the city.”¹⁸ It is very possible that Charles associated with All Soul’s Church given his wife’s apparent membership.

A possible confirmation of this was Charles’ membership in the Rationalist Society in Columbus. The Society followed the philosophy of Thomas Paine, a Deist and author of *Common Sense* (1776) in defense of American independence, whose religious intensity was for “the emancipation of humanity from enslavement of tyranny.” In “Part Second” of his book, *Age of Reason* (1795), Paine rejected “the claims to authority and the theology of the Christian Churches.”¹⁹ From 1920 to 1934 Galbreath delivered nine invited lectures to the group on variety of historical topics, such as the life and beliefs of prehistoric peoples of Ohio, the government of the Northwest Territory, and famous American election campaign songs. After his death in 1934, a memorial statement from the society proclaimed that “the principals of the Society were his principals.”²⁰

Galbreath possessed a friendly, modest demeanor that masked a highly determined man who was not shy about seeking high educational attainment. He attended a country school until he was thirteen when he needed to combine his time between education and work in a sawmill to help support the family income. Before graduating with honors from New Lisbon High School in Lisbon, Ohio in 1879, Galbreath taught winter terms in a country school beginning in 1875. His experience growing up on a farm would influence his work to promote books and reading in rural areas. He attended Mt. Union College where he earned a B.Ph. in 1882, B.A. in 1883, and an M.A. in 1894. Galbreath married Ida Kelley of Salem, Ohio in 1882, and they remained together for 52 years. A son, Albert, was born in 1884.²¹

With his strong communication skills, Galbreath sought professional advancement as a teacher and educational administrator. At the age of twenty-six Charles took a job as

superintendent of schools at Wilmot in Stark County in 1884 and began a similar position at East Palestine in Columbiana County in 1886 while also serving as the county school examiner and teaching at Ohio Normal University in Ada during the summers of 1891 and 1892.²² In 1893 Galbreath was named vice president of the newly incorporated Mt. Hope College in Rogers, and he was referred to by the *Journal of Education* as “one of the ablest young men of the state.”²³ In early 1896 he was named president, but in May he left the college to become the State Librarian in Columbus.

Republican Politics

The drive for professional advancement paralleled Galbreath’s activism in the Ohio Republican Party. He grew up in a Republican family and inherited progressive views. His political preference was clear when he purchased the *Reveille* newspaper in New Palestine, Columbiana County in 1892 and worked as the editor until he sold it in March 1894. He changed the name to *Republican Reveille* “to make more conspicuous its political complexion.”²⁴ In March 1896, prior to accepting the job as State Librarian, Galbreath won election to the state Republican convention at Columbus as a delegate for Salem. Columbiana County Republicans expressed support for the election of Ohioan William McKinley for president.

After McKinley’s election in November 1896, and with Galbreath six months into his work as State Librarian, Galbreath received public attention for his correspondence with Fidel G. Pierra of the Cuban junta in New York and his emotional letter in support of Cuban attempts to gain independence from Spain. He described the slaughter of freedom fighters by the Spanish military and criticized the outgoing Democratic Party administration of Grover Cleveland for indirectly helping Spain and lacking “the courage to be just. Among the ‘plain people’ are those

who emulate the spirit of La Fayette, who are to-day eager to extend a helping hand to those who fight with desperate valor for the priceless boon of liberty.” He sought to organize a local chapter of the Cuban League of the United States of America and possibly send the junta money and arms. The Republican Party’s position on Cuba in 1896 was to sympathize and support efforts for freedom and peace but not interfere in an aggressive manner.²⁵ A year later Pierra wrote a long letter to Galbreath published in the press. Pierra explained why Cubans could not accept an autonomous state under Spanish control. He ended the letter with a wish that “the good people of Ohio, our warm and sincere friends, will raise such a cry in favor of a more determined and American policy in connection with the Cuban question that it will be heard all over the land, and especially in Washington.”²⁶

When Galbreath was appointed State Librarian in May 1896 the appointment was part of the new administration of Republican Governor Asa Bushnell. In December 1897 some newspapers depicted Galbreath as one of the governor’s “anti-Hanna” men in a feud between Bushnell and Marcus Hanna who led McKinley’s successful campaign for president and wielded much political power in Ohio. The two struggled over power in the state Republican Party and in 1897 they clashed over the governor’s reluctance to appoint Hanna to the open U.S. Senate seat after Senator John Sherman became Secretary of State in McKinley’s administration. Bushnell made the appointment under pressure from McKinley. The *Chicago Daily Tribune* reported that Galbreath was “the head and front of the anti-Hanna literary bureau which has its headquarters in the State House and is undertaking to supply the country papers with ready-made editorials intended to create anti-Hanna sentiment.” When Hanna’s bid to continue as U.S. senator required his election by the Ohio legislature, Bushnell opposed him and Galbreath was

identified as among the state officials who are “secretly obstructing Mr. Hanna’s pathway” to reelection because they are under the influence of the governor.²⁷

By virtue of his activities within the Ohio Republican Party and his position as State Librarian beginning in 1896, Galbreath used his influence to seek the support of influential party members for candidates running for office. He had a good relationship with Republican U.S. Senator Joseph Foraker who was a center of political influence in opposition to Hanna for control of the party in Ohio. In March 1901 Galbreath asked Foraker to support two Republicans from Columbiana County running for the state House of Representatives in the upcoming election in November. Foraker complimented Galbreath’s work for Republican candidates in this election and noted that Galbreath is “always on the firing line...I assure you of my proper appreciation for all you have done, and sincerely hope I may have opportunity to show it other than by mere words.”²⁸ In 1916 during Galbreath’s second time as State Librarian, he reached out to former governor Myron T. Herrick to encourage him to run for the U.S. Senate race against the Democratic incumbent Atlee Pomerene. Herrick recognized the influence that Galbreath had in the Republican Party and stated that “I know how potent that will be” for a successful party nomination.²⁹ Herrick lost to Pomerene in November.

National Library Movement

In 1896 Galbreath assumed his new role as State Librarian in an environment of great change in the national library community. Public Libraries were expanding as part of the nationwide “library movement” during the last quarter of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The expansion of libraries, particularly in small towns and rural areas outside of large cities, was part of the wider Progressive philosophy of improving society and strengthening American

democracy through greater access to books and improving education. The number of public libraries increased because of expanding public interest in reading and public education in both urban and rural areas. There was growing recognition of the value of libraries for children and adults in farming and small town communities.³⁰ Many communities were willing to be taxed to support county or city libraries, and private funding encouraged the construction of library buildings and expanding services.

The number of public library buildings increased dramatically with the help of philanthropists, volunteers, and library programs. Industrial magnate Andrew Carnegie provided massive contributions to the construction of new library buildings. “Between 1899 and his death in 1919, he gave \$41 million to construct 1,679 public library buildings in 1,412 U.S. communities.”³¹ Local women’s groups, schools, and state library associations in Ohio and many other states promoted interest in books and reading leading to the organization of libraries.³² In 1892 the first “Traveling Libraries” organized by Melvil Dewey at the New York State Library brought reading materials to people in rural and small-town areas of the state that did not have access to libraries. The advent of traveling libraries served as an example for other states, and by 1899 there were thirty-two state libraries hosting 2,500 traveling libraries that distributed 110,000 volumes. The service promoted reading and led to the demand for more local libraries.³³

Additional hallmarks of the library movement were the professionalization of librarianship based on the growing number of academic programs to train librarians beginning with Columbia University in 1887, the organization of the American Library Association (ALA) in 1876, and holding ALA conferences where librarians could share ideas and practices.³⁴

Part of the “library movement” involved increasing professionalization of state library management and the library’s relationship with public libraries in the states. State libraries, based in growing cities often at the forefront of educational reforms, supported the gradual changes in rural areas to project urban educational ideas and methods. In an article published in January 1906, Melvil Dewey, developer of the Dewey Decimal System for book classification and one of the founders of the modern American library movement, explained that state libraries “are getting out of politics; stronger men and women are being chosen to conduct them; and chiefly, both libraries and the public are recognizing the larger scope and functions of which the older generation never dreamed.” Referring to the “missionary spirit of helpfulness to the community” still needed in many states, Dewey stated that “the state library is destined [sic] to be the center of library work for every state, and to combine all agencies and focalize all efforts for the most effective [sic] results.”³⁵

State Library of Ohio 1896-1911

An important prelude to Galbreath’s appointment as State Librarian occurred on April 22, 1896 when the Ohio General Assembly enacted the Garfield Library Law named after sponsoring Republican legislator James R. Garfield, son of President James A. Garfield. The law sought to modernize State Library organization and reduce politics from its operation by creating a State Library Board of Commissioners, appointed with staggered terms of office by the governor, that would hire and supervise the State Librarian. The law mandated that the State Library, when requested, would give “advice as to all matters pertaining to the organization, maintenance or administration” of free public libraries in the state.³⁶ The attempt to reduce politics in the library was an expression of the Progressive goals to make the administration more

professional and efficient and eliminate appointments based on politics. Previously the position of State Librarian was viewed as a political appointment. In an editorial encouraging the passage of Garfield's bill the *Columbus Dispatch* reported that "history shows that much of the time since the library was established the appointment of librarian has been made solely as a reward for party services and often with entire disregard of fitness-or unfitness-for the duties of the position. This has been especially true in recent years." The *Dispatch* expected the new law to help improve the professional management of the State Library and its standing among state libraries in the nation.³⁷ Despite the intention of the Garfield law, Galbreath would find that the person in the position of State Librarian changed with the party holding the governorship.

In May the newly formed Ohio Board of Library Commissioners, led by Republican newspaper editor Charles A. Reynolds, appointed Galbreath as State Librarian with the approval of Republican Governor Asa Bushnell. Galbreath was the 23rd State Librarian since the first librarian was appointed in 1817 with the organization of the State Library instigated by Governor Thomas Worthington. Galbreath was the first State Librarian to have extensive experience in education as a teacher and administrator, and he brought knowledge and enthusiasm of Ohio politics and history. These qualifications made him a good choice at a time of expected changes in Ohio libraries, although like all previous State Librarians, he did not have experience or special training in library management. The fact that he was a Republican activist undoubtedly helped with the Board's recommendation to the governor who had appointed the board members. All the State Librarians in Ohio to this time were men and that remained the case until Ruth Hess became Acting State Librarian in 1963.³⁸

At the time of Galbreath's appointment there was limited progress with expanding the number of public libraries in Ohio. Carnegie grants for building new public libraries did not

begin in Ohio until 1899 but by 1909 grants totaled \$2,437,183.³⁹ In early 1896 the State Library had no traveling library program, and there were few libraries outside of the major cities. In *Sketches of Ohio Libraries*, a book funded by the state legislature and compiled by Galbreath in 1902 with information contributed by libraries in the state, he noted that the free library movement in Ohio “is still in its infancy.” Only sixty-seven free circulating and reference libraries existed in the state and increases in recent years were due to grants from Andrew Carnegie. The book provided current information and often the origins about each Ohio library, recent Ohio library laws, and an essay by Galbreath on early Ohio newspapers and periodicals. With the publication of this book, Galbreath sought to promote Ohio public libraries, stimulate the establishment of new libraries, and generate interest in Ohio history.⁴⁰

Galbreath got to work immediately to improve the library and its services. On July 7, 1896 the *Columbus Dispatch* informed readers of the library’s expanded hours of operation and that any citizen of the state over twenty-one years of age could have up to two books checked out. Previously citizens did not have check out privileges except for certain classes of users such as legislators and the clergy.⁴¹ In his first contribution to the State Library annual report in November 1896 he highlighted his vision to improve the library and its services to the state. In addition to expansion of library hours and greater public access to the collections, Galbreath planned the reclassification of the library’s collections according to the Dewey Decimal System, which would be completed in 1897, and the long term project of updating the library’s catalog. He reported the need for organizing traveling libraries in Ohio similar to those already successful in other states and noted that the State Library already sent out “a few traveling libraries” and that the results were promising. Public demand for books would soon surpass the library’s budget for this purpose. Galbreath explained his vision of expanding state library service by

reporting that the library should be the “center of a system of traveling libraries that shall reach every village and school district in the state where good books are desired and conditions warrant the belief that a taste for healthful reading may be encouraged.” This service may also create an interest in establishing new libraries.⁴²

In his report of 1896 Galbreath noted correspondence from Ohioans indicating that “a revival of library interest is at hand and warrants the belief that state aid would accelerate library extension and be productive of good results.” The demand was not only for books but for Ohio state government publications and for a legislated program of state depositories of all state publications to expand access and preserve documents.⁴³ This was an early attempt to create a state archive, but that venture would take many years to realize and not become part of the State Library. Galbreath offered sharp criticism of the state legislature’s recent reduction of support for libraries. The reduction meant that an “opportunity to put an excellent library within easy reach of every family of the state was lost.”⁴⁴ His critique of legislative support was the first of many times in his library career that he would scold legislators for inadequate support for libraries. The Board supported Galbreath’s emphasis on the need for more funding from the state and more space for collections and services at the State House, the library’s location since 1857. In 1901 the commissioners reported that “notwithstanding our crippled condition, due to meager appropriations and lack of room, we are pleased to announce substantial progress in all lines of library work.”⁴⁵

A key part of Galbreath’s vision for enhanced service to the state was his emphasis on building the State Library’s research sources on Ohio and local history. In 1897 he referred to the State Library collection on Ohio as “still comparatively meager...much local matter of a scientific and historical character is conspicuously wanting.” He emphasized the importance of

preserving state documents and expanding the resources on geology, botany, genealogy of Ohio families, and literature on the antislavery movement.⁴⁶

In April 1906 the *Ohio State Journal* reported that “the state library is continually on the lookout for anything relating to Ohio and the old Northwest territory.”⁴⁷ In an address to the Ohio Valley Historical Association in November 1907, Galbreath explained that part of the State Library’s mission was to collect a wide range of resources on Ohio state, county, and local history. The sources would include, for example, state documents, diaries, genealogies, county histories, church histories, obituaries, and newspapers. The collection should go beyond Ohio to be strong in American history and provide sufficient works on English and European history as well. “The collection and preservation of historical material is a most important function of the State Library,” and it must be organized and made available to the public. This will ensure that the library is imbued with “the modern library spirit” marked by “useful service.”⁴⁸

The growth and success of the Traveling Libraries each year made Galbreath most proud. Enthusiasm for the program proved the great need for free access to books where books were not readily available, particularly in small towns and rural areas, and for the development of libraries throughout the state to meet the demand from a variety of readers and generate interest in reading. Library shipping clerk, John Wilson, explained that “the state Traveling Library was one of Galbreath’s children.”⁴⁹ The Columbus literary journal, *Honey Jar*, described Galbreath as “the father of the traveling library system in Ohio” and it included a caricature by *Columbus Dispatch* cartoonist Billy Ireland of Galbreath sending off a four legged, walking bundle of books to which he says “Goodbye, son, all Readersville is waiting for you.”⁵⁰



As schools and organizations found out about the new service, they applied for a book bundle. Applications came from local Federation of Women's Clubs and public schools in rural districts and small villages. Farming communities and the Grange sought books on agriculture and general interests.⁵² In 1909 twenty-five to thirty-five books from the Traveling Department's collection of 50,000 were selected based on the needs of each group, and they were shipped in special containers at the expense of the receiving organization. The books could be held for four months and renewed once. Given that the traveling libraries were considered educational for readers lacking access to good books, the number of fiction works did not exceed 20-30% of the books sent to communities, and half that amount was for juveniles.⁵³ Even though fiction was very popular among readers, popular novels of the day were excluded at this time. The limitation on fiction was consistent with contemporary views of public library administrators about providing a variety of reading materials and the belief that readers needed books for self-

betterment. The emphasis was on reading good books that would improve the mind. Galbreath emphasized the “State Library as a purveyor of healthful literature to the public.” He noted that “good books are safe friends; the best never grow old. It is for the great State of Ohio to say whether or not they shall go on their beneficent mission to those who are waiting and calling for them.”⁵⁴ Galbreath’s paternalistic views on books that should be offered to the public were shared by many public librarians in the United States during the Progressive Era.⁵⁵

In 1897 Galbreath reported 61 traveling libraries sent during the last year to local communities. By 1904 the number expanded to 966 involving 30,935 volumes sent to 647 communities. The greatest number of participants were 468 schools, 160 independent study clubs, 131 women’s clubs, eighty-nine religious organizations, seventy-eight Granges, and twenty-six libraries. By the end of 1910 the traveling library program had ballooned to 1,387 shipments totaling 60,113 volumes.⁵⁶

The General Assembly was impressed with the impact of traveling libraries in Ohio and the need for additional support to administer it at the State Library. The general appropriations for 1898-1899 specified \$4,000 for traveling libraries operating expenses and increased to \$10,000 for 1909-1910.⁵⁷ The fact that the appropriations were made and that they increased over the years of Galbreath’s first period as State Librarian can be attributed to his persuasive skills and the support of the Library Board. Legislators knew about the wide distribution of this service in their districts from State Library annual reports and a map of the state circulated in 1910 illustrating the locations of traveling libraries in 1909.⁵⁸

The idea that loaning books to communities and groups across the state would encourage the organization of new libraries was reinforced as public libraries organized in many parts of Ohio. A notable example is Van Wert County located in rural western Ohio which dedicated a

new library building on January 1, 1901. A prominent businessman, John Sanford Brumback, willed \$50,000 for the construction of a public library in the county. The dedication was celebrated with speeches by public officials marking the occasion of great cultural and social progress for the citizens of this rural county.⁵⁹

Galbreath spoke at the dedication about the value of reading and education for rural children, and he could reflect on his own life growing up on a farm. He contrasted the life of the “city lad” who lives where “vice elbows virtue” and “poverty is found in the shadow of princely munificence,” with the “country boy” who grows up a “child of nature” in an “environment that inspires liberty and independence.” His image of an idealized, idyllic country life would benefit from “the graded school...[and] through the medium of the traveling library.” Then children in rural areas will have access to good literature and ideas that would lift up their confidence to take on the wider world. Galbreath referred to the new Van Wert library as a “temple” offering hope for a “new and grander day, when right shall reign, when charity shall not fail, when learning shall have a wider field...”⁶⁰

The traveling library program and the growth of libraries it spawned in small towns and farming counties represented increasing educational opportunities consistent with the Progressive Era movement to improve the lives of common Americans. With the tremendous growth of industrialization in Ohio since the last decades of the 19th century, the population of rural counties decreased as there was migration to urban centers for jobs, and the overall percentage of residence in urban areas increased even faster with arrival of large numbers of immigrants. Between 1900 and 1910 Ohio became more urban than rural, and by 1920 urban residence comprised 63.8% of the population.⁶¹ The traveling library program was one way to

improve educational opportunity in rural regions of the state when resources were shifting to growing cities.

Although Galbreath received the credit for the popular service, the Board appointed his wife, Ida Galbreath, to the paid position of manager of the Traveling Library Department in May 1902. She was already a paid employee of the State Library after the Board approved her employment as a stenographer in 1898 and Library Assistant in 1902. As manager of the traveling library service the Board gave her “absolute and exclusive control and supervision of that department, subject only to the instructions of the Board, and supervision of the Librarian.”⁶²

Having Mrs. Galbreath on the paid staff in a key position reporting to her husband must have seemed shocking to employees and the public at a state funded institution. This may be why the Board strongly emphasized her authority over the service. Nepotism in state government was not illegal in Ohio but it was frowned upon. The state legislature might have questioned it, particularly Democratic legislators, but there is no indication of that. After Democratic Governor Judson Harmon replaced Galbreath with Democrat John Henry Newman in July 1911, Newman retained Ida as manager of the traveling library department until October 1912 when she was replaced.

During his first ten years as State Librarian Galbreath received accolades from the Board for his successful and diligent work to improve the State Library’s impact throughout Ohio. In 1899 the commission president and former Clark County legislator, John F. McGrew, wrote to Governor Bushnell that “from the day that the present librarian assumed the office he has been tireless in his efforts to make the library a state institution in fact as well as in theory. His close relations with the common schools and his thorough acquaintances and sympathy with rural communities that do not enjoy library privileges have thoroughly qualified him for the work he

has done.”⁶³ These comments were dated November 15th, approximately three weeks after Galbreath was elected president of the National Association of State Librarians at its conference in Indianapolis.⁶⁴ The honor was not mentioned by McGrew but could only have enhanced Galbreath’s value to the State Library.

In 1905 the commissioners praised Galbreath’s work to extend traveling libraries to underserved populations. “The state could not have a more conscientious and efficient public servant than the present librarian. To him is due more than all others, the credit for the great progress made in the State Library; under his management the Traveling Library Department has been made to reach into every county in the State, and the wise selection of books for the entire Library has been largely due to his painstaking, tireless industry and investigation.”⁶⁵

Statewide colleagues emphasized Galbreath’s personality as one of the keys to his successful life and career. Longtime colleague Willia D. Cotton, librarian of Marietta (Ohio) Public Library, remembered meeting him at a bonfire at Bass Lake in Geauga County in Autumn 1909 when he was State Librarian. She noticed his “black felt hat, next his smiling face and his tall figure,...[and] his hair which he always wore rather long on his forehead.” Cotton highlighted his “attractive personality” and “kindness; for to be truly kind one must have real benevolence, or an active love of mankind. This includes interest and helpfulness, all qualities which Mr. Galbreath manifested in an unusual degree in his contact with his fellowmen.... His keen yet kindly eye, his ready smile, his warm hand clasp, drew people to him at once.”⁶⁶

The years of Galbreath’s work at the State Library from 1896 to 1911 were a time of growth of collections and increasing complexity of services to the citizens of the state. The collection grew from an estimated 47,115 in 1896 to 153,499 by the end of 1911. The library program emphasized greater professional practice reflected in expectations for hiring and

employee evaluation. Beginning in 1900 the Board increasingly emphasized the importance of education, library experience, skill, and efficiency required in successful work to qualify for employment at the State Library. Ever since Galbreath was hired, only the positions of State Librarian and Assistant Librarian, held by Alice Boardman, were considered professional librarian positions. The staff had increased substantially, and the library added library assistants and a manager of the Traveling Library Department. In 1908 the Board stated its desire for “a legally established standard” to measure applicants and employees of the library.⁶⁷

The Board emphasized the importance of library education in 1916, during Galbreath’s second period as State Librarian, by directing Library Organizer J. Howard Dice to supervise an annual summer library school beginning in 1917. The program would provide basic library instruction for trustees or personnel employed at any library. Ohio State University (OSU) Library agreed to offer instructional space. Galbreath influenced who was accepted into the program and he taught as a guest lecturer. He supervised the preparations for 1918 but the program was cancelled due to World War I.⁶⁸

The Garfield Library Law of 1896 mandated that the State Library advise the public libraries of Ohio at their request, but it was not until April 1906 that the General Assembly passed a law allowing the State Library Board to hire a Library Organizer who would work with public libraries in Ohio and report to the Board.⁶⁹ The State Library sought a librarian with academic training and library experience. The new position required “a person experienced and trained in library work, acquainted with what has been done by library commissions in other states and qualified by nature and training.”⁷⁰ In September 1908, after the legislature finally appropriated \$2,000 for the position, the library hired Ohio native Mary E. Downey who, in 1901, completed the library economy program at the University of Chicago Extension Program,

one of the early professional librarian training programs in the United States. This type of position became common in other states as the number of public libraries grew and State Libraries established themselves as coordinating statewide library management.

Galbreath considered the \$2,000 funding to be inadequate to hire a full time Organizer and cover additional staff and expenses, so Downey was the only person in the department. As Library Organizer, Downey offered advice and guidance to existing public libraries across the state to ensure successful library programs, provided help with the development of new libraries in the county library system, compiled library statistics, and reported to the Board on library conditions in the state.⁷¹ At the Ohio State Teachers' Association conference in June 1911, Downey asked teachers from rural counties to help promote the development of township libraries by supporting new libraries in their school districts and the required tax levies to maintain them. She emphasized the importance of reading and the availability of books to students as essential for their education.⁷² Downey lost her job by the end of 1911 a few months after Galbreath was sacked. The setback did not deter her from serving two consecutive terms as President of the Ohio Library Association before leaving for a position in Utah. Downey eventually returned to the State Library as Library Organizer in 1929.⁷³

A key initiative pursued by Galbreath and the Board was the enhancement of State Library services to state legislators with a legislative reference service. This was another example of Ohio attempting to catch up with a trend in other states. The first modern legislative reference service began in Wisconsin in 1901 and served as an example for similar services in state libraries and municipalities.⁷⁴ For years Galbreath urged the General Assembly to fund a service to help legislators, state government officials, and their staff gather information in the process of understanding public issues and drafting legislation. He had already pushed the

service forward without funding to demonstrate its potential. The result was the publication of guides to resources for the benefit of legislators on Ohio Canals (1910) and Initiative and Referendum (1908, 1909). The proposal, which had been discussed since at least 1907, was approved in May 1910 authorizing the Board to hire a director of the service who would report to the State Librarian. An initial appropriation of \$3,000 rose to \$5,000 in 1911.⁷⁵ The *Columbus Dispatch* recognized the value of the new reference service for helping shape future legislation when it emphasized that “a library is not a mere repository for books; it is not a place for idleness and dreams, but a workshop, wherein out of the material of the past may be built the structure of tomorrow.”⁷⁶

Galbreath emphasized that the addition of the legislative reference service demonstrated once again the need for better organization and preservation of state documents in an archive managed by a trained archivist. Furthermore, adding the new reference service increased the State Library’s space woes even if the service was clearly needed. Galbreath pleaded for adequate space for the new service and the State Library generally because there was no space left in the State House. He called for a new building for various state government departments including the State Library, but a major roadblock was the view of rural legislators who refused to provide funds for expensive property in Columbus.⁷⁷

Governor Harmon, a Democrat, decided to remove Galbreath as State Librarian in 1911 because of Galbreath’s identification and activism as a Republican, despite his well-known accomplishments over 15 years. At the end of his last day at work on June 30th the library staff presented him with flowers and a gold watch along with their well wishes and regrets at his departure.⁷⁸ Harmon replaced Galbreath with John Henry Newman, a Democrat with no library experience currently serving as deputy state fire marshall.⁷⁹ The decision became public in April

and generated significant opposition. The *Cleveland Leader* referred to Newman's hiring as a "reward for stump services for Governor Harmon." The Lebanon, Ohio newspaper, *The Western Star*, described Harmon's decision as "a political wrong" that reduced the State Librarian to a political operative. Galbreath's colleagues at the meeting of the National Association of State Libraries (NASL) on May 22 agreed to a resolution condemning his ouster "for political expediency." The resolution stated that the members of the NASL "deplore this renewed entrance of politics into a department of government which to be successful requires not only personal adaptability, but also professional skill, which is greatly increased by years of experience." A copy of the resolution was sent to Galbreath and Harmon.⁸⁰ Four years later Galbreath referred to his dismissal as a "decapitation for 'political expediency'" rather than as a personal rebuke.⁸¹

Historian Lloyd Sponholtz suggested that Galbreath's dismissal may have been part of Governor Harmon's attempt to raise his own profile in the national Democratic Party and that removing Republicans from the state government could have been part of his strategy to compete for the Democratic nomination for president as a favorite son candidate.⁸² Indeed he pursued the nomination at the party convention in Baltimore in 1912 when Woodrow Wilson emerged victorious.

Ohio Constitutional Convention, 1912 and Progressive Politics

When Galbreath left the State Library at the end of June 1911 preparations were underway for a future constitutional convention in Ohio. Many among the public believed that updating the constitution with progressive ideas was necessary since it was last changed in 1851, but they worried that it would be done poorly and rejected by voters. The *Cleveland Leader*

reported that Galbreath traveled the state to talk with “plain citizens” about what the convention should accomplish. He published a series of articles in 1911 on constitution making.⁸³ These publications, appearing in the fall after he left the State Library, may have been part of his campaign for secretary of the convention. Then in November of that year he sought the support of Toledo attorney and influential, progressive Republican Walter F. Brown who would serve as a convention delegate from Lucas County.⁸⁴

The convention began on January 9, 1912 in the hall of the House of Representatives in Columbus and would be held most weekdays through June 7 and then officially adjourned on August 26. A. Ross Read, a Democrat and retired farmer from Summit County, nominated Galbreath for secretary of the convention in a four man race. In his nominating speech Read praised Galbreath for his “experience in the public service and his familiarity with sources of information that will be useful to this Convention.” He pointed out Galbreath’s work as State librarian, particularly his research on “current constitutional and social problems, [which] have given him a reputation far beyond the borders of our state. His pamphlets, on the Initiative and Referendum and on the Constitutional Conventions of Ohio, and his knowledge of legislative procedure, obtained from years of contact with our legislative bodies, all bear evidence of his fitness for the office.” There can be little doubt that his rural upbringing and early work history appealed to many delegates. Although Democratic delegates outnumbered Republicans sixty-two to fifty-two along with three Independents and two Socialists, Galbreath, a progressive Republican, gained a majority on the second ballot winning 72 to 32 against his closest rival Walter W. Pollock of Cuyahoga County.⁸⁵

As Secretary of the convention Galbreath supervised a paid staff of ten clerks and eleven stenographers to record the minutes of the proceedings, arrange for printing and document

distribution, secure copyrights of the proceedings and debates, and file records with the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. For his efforts his salary was \$3,000. On June 1 the convention voted to thank Galbreath “for his uniform courtesy and efficient service.”⁸⁶

In his own account of the convention, Galbreath emphasized that party lines were officially ignored. The general tenor of the convention from all parties was politically and socially progressive based on the constitutional amendments approved for voter consideration. One of the most heated issues was deciding on the president of the convention which took place before Galbreath became Secretary. There were candidate headquarters and managers, “and the race for principle and place waxed warm in spite of editorial exposition and the chilling blast of January.”⁸⁷ Major conflicts in choosing the convention president focused on liquor licenses between the “wets” and the “drys,” the strength of progressive ideology among both Democrats and Republicans, and the intrusion of political power from the office of Governor Harmon.

Cleveland Plain Dealer reporter A. E. McKee wrote that although the convention was not supposed to be a partisan affair, it became so because the governor influenced the vote for president. Harmon preferred Democrat Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, a “dry candidate,” and Bigelow won on the 11th ballot. McKee reported that delegates elected Bigelow “after a grueling battle, victory going to him when the wets swung three votes to his standard, and the state administration swung two others. His [Bigelow’s] force, one of the strongest in the history of Ohio politics, was a combination of progressive strength, initiative, referendum, recall, the active support of the wets and the drys and repeated efforts and pressure from the state administration.” McKee referred to this combination of support as “incongruous, so impossible for any ordinary man under any ordinary circumstances to perfect.”⁸⁸

Galbreath had high expectations that the convention delegates and ultimately Ohio voters would approve progressive reforms. He referred to Bigelow as “an independent Democrat in politics” and “a recognized leader of the movement for direct legislation in Ohio” which allows citizens to create legislation for public approval without elected representatives and legislative bodies. Bigelow was important in the progressive movement to make government more accountable and effective. Galbreath saw this as very positive for enhancing democracy and government by the people. The movement toward “initiative and referendum” that allowed more direct democracy on the part of voters was adopted in thirteen states by the summer of 1912, mainly by state governments west of the Mississippi River.⁸⁹ In addition to the approval of this issue by the convention, other progressive proposals approved for voter consideration were judicial reform, municipal home rule, women’s suffrage, regulation of corporations, conservation of natural resources, welfare of workers, and improved race relations.

The forty-two proposed changes to the constitution generated much discussion leading up to the public vote on September 3. There were pamphlets and circulars “warning against the advent of socialism and industrial disaster” and suggestions to voters to reject any amendment if they were not sure of their support. The result revealed a split between urban and rural voters and mixed results on major issues. Voters rejected women’s suffrage, the eligibility of women for certain offices, and removing the word “white” from the reference in the constitution to white male citizens eligible to vote. The 15th amendment to the US constitution superseded the reference to “white,” but it remained in the Ohio constitution since it was inserted in 1851 and revealed the intense white racism in the state. Voters approved initiative and referendum, an eight hour work day on public work, prison contract labor reform, civil service reform, and

licensing intoxicating liquors. Overall Galbreath viewed the changes to the constitution as moving Ohio forward toward a “progressive commonwealth.”⁹⁰

The cooperation of Democrats and Republicans for progressive reforms masked sharp differences within the Republican Party. Republicans in Ohio had a progressive wing that supported the national Progressive Party organized by Senator William M. La Follette of Wisconsin in 1911 and later nominated Theodore Roosevelt for president in 1912 as part of Roosevelt’s Bull Moose Party. Galbreath supported the Progressive Republicans against fellow Ohioan President William Howard Taft from the conservative wing. After Democrat Woodrow Wilson won the presidency that year, Ohio Republicans explored the reunification of the party to better oppose Democrats in the future. In May 1913 the *Cleveland Leader* described Galbreath as a “progressive Republican of the first rate and known throughout the state for his advocacy of the initiative and referendum.” He strongly supported the merger of Republicans and Progressives because he believed their differences could be overcome if the party leaders would get behind the merger. If the leaders did not act then the rank and file would push for unity.⁹¹

Galbreath’s brand of progressive reform had a strong element of moralist principals that encompassed opposition to the legal sale of liquor. He supported anti-saloon and anti-liquor initiatives and must have been disappointed in the success of the constitutional proposal to allow the sale of liquor in Ohio. At least as far back as 1883, as a student at Mount Union College, Galbreath managed the “dry forces” in Stark County in a push to influence voters to support prohibition. In 1918, while living in Columbus, he managed the Stark County Dry Federation leading up to the vote on November 5 for a “dry Ohio” referendum similar to those in other states. He appealed to voters based on the experience of the war that was nearly at an end and in which his son was serving in the military in Europe. The press quoted him saying “the war has

thoroughly discredited the liquor traffic. It has been driven from the Army and the Navy...I do not understand how any patriotic American can now support the rum power. Every father of a soldier, should vote tomorrow to make Ohio and the nation dry forever.”⁹² His efforts succeeded when a majority of voters supported prohibition in Ohio.

Ida Galbreath supported her husband’s progressive politics with her own activism. She became known in Columbus for her support of women’s suffrage. She hosted women’s discussions of public affairs, engaged in public speaking, and in March 1914 ran for president of the Columbus Federation of Women’s Clubs. The *Columbus Dispatch* referred to her as Mrs. Charles B. Galbreath, the typical way that newspapers referred to married women at the time. The paper reported that she lost the election to Mrs. Charles C. Pavey who was neutral on women’s suffrage. Although suffrage was “not intended to be an issue in the election, there was no denying that the factional fight centered on the subject.” The *Dispatch* often listed Ida’s name related to service activities, such as serving as a director of the Franklin County Equal Suffrage Association, supporting legislation and enforcement of restrictions against child labor, helping orphans in France and Belgium due to the war, and participating in the Columbus Chapter of War Mothers of America. After the ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, Ida became more active in the Ohio Women’s Republican Club. When she was installed as the president of the more general Columbus Women’s Club in October 1921, she “urged every woman to do something for the general good” by which she meant raising money for charity or for Children’s Hospital.⁹³ Ida joined her husband as a strong supporter of temperance.

During the constitutional convention in 1912, Galbreath found time to seek elective office in Columbiana County. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* listed him among the candidates for the Republican nomination for Congressman-at-Large, but that effort was unsuccessful. Two

years later in 1914 he sought his party's nomination for Ohio Secretary of State.⁹⁴ Again he did not win the nomination. Shortly before the primary he placed advertisements promoting his experience in the *Cleveland Gazette*, an African American newspaper touting the "largest bona fide circulation...of any newspaper in the interest of Afro-Americans, published in the state of Ohio." The ad noted that he employed "colored men" in the State Library. "His attitude toward the race has been such as to win him our sincere friendship."⁹⁵ Galbreath sought the votes of Black Ohioans by emphasizing his family history of slavery abolition and his liberal, progressive actions during a time of intense and widespread racism in the United States.

State Library of Ohio 1915-1918, 1927-1929

Galbreath returned as State Librarian in 1915 after the election of Republican Frank Willis as governor. In a letter to the president of the National Association of State Libraries, James L. Gillis, at the national convention in June 1915, Galbreath expressed his great joy "to be in library work once more, in good health and highly resolved to give the best that is in me to the service of the state." He emphasized that the organization must carry on a "militant campaign" to eliminate "the demon of spoils and politics" from library service.⁹⁶

On August 10, 1917 the State Library hosted a celebration of its centennial birthday with Galbreath presiding. Among those in attendance were library representatives from public libraries, OSAHS, and OSU. The main speaker, historian and former Ohio state legislator and Secretary of State Daniel J. Ryan, reviewed the history of the library. He spoke about the greatness of the library's collection of 200,000 volumes, particularly its collections of Ohio newspapers, local histories, and historical pamphlets and bound periodicals. Ryan praised Galbreath as the "persistent and intelligent executor" of the State Library's collection building

policy. “He has done better and more valuable work in this direction than any of his predecessors. His own knowledge of literature, his scholarly discrimination, and his love for his work for the work’s sake, has been the inspiration of this endeavor.” Additional praise for Galbreath came from Olive Jones, director of the OSU Library. She reviewed his key accomplishments and emphasized that he is “due credit for Ohio’s standing in the front line of state library development. But it was all done so quietly, so unostentatiously...”⁹⁷

When Galbreath spoke to the assembled crowd, he took the opportunity to appeal once again to the General Assembly to fund a new building for the library because the current space in the State House was “wholly inadequate.” Considering the funding of new library buildings at universities in the state and the OSAHS, and a governor’s mansion among other state buildings, he continued to believe optimistically that legislators would eventually fund a new State Library building. Furthermore, Galbreath explained that an effort must be made to provide books and periodicals for soldiers serving during the world war which the United States entered the previous April. He pointed out that the war increased the demand for reading materials among the civilian population. Although there continued to be much that needed to be done to improve the State Library, he felt positive about the library’s achievements with building collections and providing services to libraries and the public. The achievements were examples of the “progressive spirit and the wider vision of those who labor in the library field of today.”⁹⁸

In May 1918, a year after Democrat James M. Cox became governor for the second time, he directed the Board to fire Galbreath and replace him with Newman. The 1896 library law that attempted to remove politics from the State Librarian position was consistently revealed to be a failure because of the continuing power of the governor over the State Library Board of

Commissioners. Of course, Galbreath steeped himself in state Republican politics so he could not claim an apolitical public life. He exposed himself to the winds of political partisanship.

After his second political “decapitation” in 1918, Galbreath wanted nothing more to do with leading the State Library. He reflected on his experience to Carl Vitz, director of the Cleveland Public Library, in December 1920. Vitz, who was also president of the Ohio Library Association, sought his opinion about the need for a new State Librarian in Ohio and the possible appointment of longtime assistant librarian Alice Boardman who wanted the position. Without providing specifics, Galbreath unloaded with remarks about his difficulties keeping the peace among employees. “In the long period of my service in that position I had to devote fully half of my energy to the circumvention of mischief that was continually devised in the library. In order to preserve harmony there I had to submit to conditions and the treatment of assistants that was anything but pleasant to me. I smoothed over the situation as best I could.” He highlighted accomplishments and said that he “tried to create a sentiment in favor of trained library service in the State Library and in the public libraries of the state.” He explained that the State Library offered great possibilities for improving education in Ohio but current conditions at the library were not leading to positive outcomes. He did not believe that Alice Boardman was the right person for State Librarian.⁹⁹ Galbreath worked with Boardman for many years, but he did not provide details about problems that would lead to his opposition to her appointment. There is no evidence that he had any problem with a woman serving as State Librarian but if he did, that is probably not something he would state openly.

Although Galbreath promised himself that “under no circumstances would I ever return” to the State Library, he could not keep that promise. In May 1927 Democratic Governor Alvin V. Donahey vetoed the appropriation for the State Library. The *Columbus Dispatch* reported that

Donahey was opposed in principle to a state library. The governor suggested that the library functions could be taken over by school districts and the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. By the end of July the library closed and all employees, including State Librarian Herbert S. Hirshberg, were dismissed. This led to Galbreath's reluctant return as interim State Librarian from August 1927 until February 1929, while also retaining his job as Secretary, Editor, and Librarian at OSAHS which began in 1920. He took on the added responsibilities now "against my protest and with only fifteen minutes previous notice...I felt that I could not refuse to give the best that is in me to keep open the Library and its agencies and care for the valuable property until the legislature should meet." Galbreath restarted basic library services on August 1 with a few volunteer employees although the library remained closed to the public. He directed the cleanup of the library and preservation of its services and resources.¹⁰⁰ Volunteers hoped that the state would provide back wages once an appropriation was made, but it took an emergency appropriation in late January 1929 to fund back pay only for positions currently filled that existed prior to the veto. Galbreath was not paid.¹⁰¹

Galbreath's volunteer term ended with the appointment of George E. McCormick, president of the Lima Star Publishing Company. A full appropriation for the State Library did not occur until April, early in the new administration of Republican Governor Myers Y. Cooper, amid debate about eliminating the library with the idea that OSU Library could provide most of its services. The idea of consolidating the State Library with OSU rose again in 1931 when the Depression reduced state revenues, but Galbreath commented at that time that politicians "will hardly consent to give up this bit of patronage."¹⁰²

When Galbreath was dismissed from the State Library in May 1918 at age 60 his interest in public affairs and personal energy led to work in September 1919 with a bipartisan Joint

Committee on Administrative Reorganization charged with investigating how state government could be reorganized for maximum efficiencies.¹⁰³ Less than a year later, on March 16, 1920, the board of trustees of the OSAHS selected him to be Secretary, Editor, and Librarian.

Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society 1920-1934

In 1885 the Ohio General Assembly incorporated the OSAHS “for the purpose of promoting a knowledge of Archaeology and History, especially of Ohio” and the organization and maintenance of a library and a museum of prehistoric relics and specimens of art and nature. The articles of incorporation stated that the public would have access to the library, museum, lectures, and publications, but an adequate museum and library were not available right away. The Society constitution of 1922 stated that any resident of Ohio could be a member of the organization after payment of annual dues or life membership, and they would receive all publications.¹⁰⁴ In May 1885 the Society applied to Ohio State University to use space for its library and archaeological collections and OSU invited the Society to place its “headquarters” at the university. The library moved from a room in the State House to OSU’s Orton Hall in 1894 and later moved to Page Hall beginning in the winter of 1902/1903. After the General Assembly appropriated \$100,000 to construct a museum and library on the OSU campus, the OSAHS asked the university architect to direct the project. The building opened in late 1913 and was dedicated on May 30, 1914. The museum and library would employ students and offer research materials for a variety of classes and faculty. The relationship between the Society and the university became close and collaborative but there were sensitivities on both sides that would become clear in later years.¹⁰⁵

At the time of Galbreath's appointment at the OSAHS there was an ongoing debate about the role of state supported historical societies in the United States. Historical societies existed to collect, preserve, and make available a wide range of primary source documents and artifacts as well as historical books and periodicals on the history of a state, region, and the United States. For years historical society leaders recognized that they needed to promote the value of their resources and services to the public, not just historians and other scholars. The trend was toward greater popular appeal and public services by emphasizing local history and genealogy while also collecting resources for professional scholars and students.¹⁰⁶ In 1923 scholar Arthur Adams believed that a large majority of historical society users were genealogists and that societies ought to treat them with "helpfulness and sympathetic cooperation" and respect. He recognized that the popularity of genealogy offered societies the opportunity to instruct users in research methods and the importance of evaluating evidence for truth.¹⁰⁷ To get support from state legislatures and increased memberships it was necessary to increase public support through inspiring historical programs for adults and children, enthusiastic public services, and publications that appeal to a range of readers. This meant promoting state, local, and family history while also teaching appropriate research methodologies and publishing high quality journals.¹⁰⁸

Appointment, Promotion, Funding, Collections

In 1920 OSAHS expanded the job previously held by Emilius O. Randall who served as Secretary and Editor of society publications from February 1894 until his death on December 18, 1919. The Society sought someone who, like Randall, would dedicate themselves to promoting and building up the Society and its archaeological and library collections and facilities, and who

could effectively work with the legislature to secure funding. Galbreath was well known in the Society for his work at the State Library and his deep interest and enthusiasm for Ohio history. Also, he was a life member of the Society and author of articles in its quarterly journal. His active support for the Republican Party may not have mattered, but Randall was also active Republican.¹⁰⁹

When the OSAHS amended its constitution in 1922 it updated the duties of its officers. Among the many duties of the Secretary were maintaining the minutes and records of the Society, editing its publications focusing mainly on a quarterly journal, supervising all correspondence of the Society, providing a written report at the annual meeting, and other duties assigned by the Trustees. Galbreath's experience and inclination to be broadly involved led to his work in fund raising, developing the museum and library collections by donations from individuals and institutions or purchases, seeking state appropriations and political support, and managing special projects. As Librarian he managed all aspects of that service and library correspondence. His working papers are full of communications involving all his activities. The communications often dealt with the business of the library, letters from researchers and the public seeking information on local or Ohio history, family history, historical celebrations, acquisition and management of OSAHS sites around the state, and personnel matters of the Society. He worked closely with the Society president, curators, librarians, trustees, and donors.

Galbreath approached his work as Secretary, Editor, and Librarian at OSAHS with energy and enthusiasm. As he did at the State Library, he immediately set out to ensure that the library was properly organized, managed, and focused on expanding the historical and archaeological collections for research, preservation, and enhancing the knowledge of the public. In his first report at the annual meeting held December 10, 1920, he remarked optimistically that

he hoped to see thousands of books arriving in the collections from gifts and purchases over the next year and he was sure that a growing collection would increase public use of the library and demands on the staff. “As our ability to meet requests of patrons increases and becomes known, additional trained service will be demanded.” Galbreath explained his vision for a central repository for historical Ohio newspapers. He called for the organization of a newspaper archive for efficient access by journalists, researchers, and students.¹¹⁰

One of Galbreath’s goals, given his multiple duties, was the aggressive promotion and expansion of library and museum collections and services offered to the public. Also, he believed that OSAHS publications had an important role to increase the visibility of the historical society and promote research and knowledge of Ohio history. In his first annual report he called for clarifying the publication distribution policies and to distribute publications at no charge to libraries at educational institutions in Ohio. He proposed that when quarterly issues appear, brief contents would be placed in local newspapers. “Such a policy would be in harmony with the purposes of this Society and would bring our work into closer contact with the educational forces in the state.”¹¹¹

The focus on public promotion of the library and museum included letting state legislators know that the Society adds to the “tangible, substantial property of the state more than it gets from the public treasury, to say nothing of the educational service that it performs. It is winning the attention and confidence of the public.” Given the great value of the Society to the state, Galbreath believed that it deserved greater budget allocations than the General Assembly was offering in 1920. He sought to generate greater appropriations by emphasizing state pride and a greater destiny for Ohio and the OSAHS. He encouraged “appreciation of the lessons that

our history should teach, here at the gateway to our great university will rise a living monument that shall eloquently speak of the prestige and power and glory of the Buckeye state.”¹¹²

Eloquent words like these often gave way to more emphatic and blunt statements. For example, he told the attendees at the 1922 annual meeting of the OSAHS that despite a request to the General Assembly for an appropriation of \$2,500 for purchasing books and manuscripts over two years, the legislature’s appropriation of \$500 was “a sum almost too insignificant to even mention...making the library dependent almost wholly upon contributions of books and papers.”¹¹³ He lamented the lost opportunity to purchase basic and important books and manuscripts related to Ohio but he hoped to make up for this by collecting photostat copies of documents from other library collections.

Based on his knowledge of the Ohio legislative process and the way legislators worked, Galbreath used various approaches that he hoped would increase funding for the OSAHS. In 1921 the United States experienced the second year of a sharp economic depression following World War I. When the legislature considered making substantial cuts to the Society’s appropriations, Galbreath aggressively countered their proposals and sought fairness in the way cuts were distributed among government departments. He expressed his concerns in a letter in February 1921 to Colonel Webb C. Hayes, son of President Rutherford B. Hayes, who donated his father’s library to the historical society and contributed his own money to partially fund the construction of a building to house it and a museum at Spiegel Grove in Fremont, Ohio. Galbreath complained that the House Finance Committee did not appropriate funds for operating expenses at the Hayes library. He believed that if the members of the committee visited Spiegel Grove that they would understand the value of funding this important resource much better than listening to a budget request.¹¹⁴

In addition to legislator visits Galbreath often compared appropriations at OSAHS to other institutions. For example, in a letter dated April 16, 1921 to Harry M. Carpenter, Republican chair of the House Finance Committee, Galbreath demonstrated in a table how much lower the Society employees' salaries were for comparable positions at Ohio State University where the Society was located. He believed the differences in salaries were unfair and made it difficult to hire and keep good people to work at the Society. On May 3 he wrote to Carpenter again requesting support for funds to expand the OSAHS building as other states "have done for their history—a history less illustrious than our own." In an expression of frustration with the budget proposal in the House in April 1921 he told Republican Majority Leader Charles C. Crabbe that he would quit his job at the Society if the committee's draft budget, with his annual salary decreased from \$3,500 to \$1,000, was approved by the General Assembly.¹¹⁵ He appealed to citizens to write to their legislators in support of the historical society.

It was incomprehensible to Galbreath that the leaders of the state would not recognize the great value of providing sufficient funding for educational institutions that offer so much value to the citizens of the state. His views were clear in his letter to state Senator James F. Atwood, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in March 1923. He outlined reasons that the legislature should appropriate adequate funding for jobs at competitive pay, printing society publications for distribution, and to purchase collections. He explained that "it has been a difficult task—why I do not know—to interest legislators in the history of our state and its relation to our Nation, and yet no person questions its importance. It is the great Americanizer. Those who become interested in it will never need to be told their duty to their flag and their country. I appeal to you in behalf of the history Ohio has made and is making and the influence it should have upon the rising generation especially the thousands of students that pass this

institution every day in attendance at our great university.”¹¹⁶ It was so difficult to persuade legislators to appropriate the level of funding he believed to be necessary that the idea of getting help from prominent persons living outside Ohio was not out of the question. He explained to an OSU faculty member that “the tendency in our state seems to be to tighten the purse strings when an Ohio man asks for anything no difference how worthy and to turn the pockets of our treasury wrong side out at the request of an ‘illustrious’ stranger.”¹¹⁷

His frustration regarding state appropriations increased greatly during the Great Depression of the 1930s when funding for the Society fell to a point that services were slashed, and the survival of the organization was in question. Galbreath recognized the decreasing state revenues and that budget cuts were necessary, but he sought fairness and recognition of the value of the historical society to the citizens of Ohio. In June 1931, a few months after Democrat George White became governor, Galbreath joined board member and former OSU president William Oxley Thompson and Society president Arthur C. Johnson at a hearing before the Senate Finance Committee. Galbreath pointed out that he cut his own salary from \$4000 to \$2200 to meet the demands of the committee, and other speakers complained about the bigger cuts to the Society than other departments of government. According to the *Columbus Dispatch* Thompson described the proposed budget that would drastically cut wages at OSAHS “as a moral breach of contract between the state and its employees.” In July Galbreath blamed Governor White and his staff for a budget that would “cripple our service.”¹¹⁸

Galbreath continued to fight for the Society’s budgetary needs in the face of a continuing depressed economy. In October 1932 he wrote to state Republican Senator Earl R. Lewis to thank him for his help to modify a legislative proposal to reduce wages at OSAHS. “This meant the virtual salvation of our society. I appreciate that fact very fully. I am very happy to know

that I have a number of friends in your Senatorial and Congressional districts and nothing will please me better than to have an opportunity to make return for your very great help to our institution.” To help with the Society’s budget strategy he distributed a compilation of the per capita cost of state government for 1931 from the U.S. Department of Commerce showing Ohio last among all states spending \$7.54 per person compared with the national average of \$12.72.¹¹⁹

In March 1933 Galbreath provided Society president Arthur C. Johnson with a detailed legislative strategy to reduce proposed cuts for 1933/1934, and in August urged the Democratic state director of finance, Clarence Burk, to save the Society’s publication services and wages from devastating cuts. “This Society has come into recognition as one of the most important historical societies in the country... I am willing to make any possible sacrifice to save it.” He was willing to take a personal salary cut to the level paid to a janitor but noted that the salaries of high positions in state government have not suffered a reduction. Budget cuts forced the OSAHS to temporarily layoff six staff and the salaries of all other employees were “substantially reduced.”¹²⁰

The summer of 1933 was so difficult for the Society that Galbreath express his exasperation with inequities in Governor White’s state budget proposal. To Cincinnati attorney and civic leader Robert F. Goldman, he wrote that he had “done everything in my power to avert the calamity,” although he agreed that balancing the budget with salary reductions was necessary and patriotic. Yet he “never dreamed that discrimination would be made to throw the whole burden of future reductions upon a few departments.” In October he told W. H. Van Fossan, former education administrator and legislator in Columbiana County, that he has been “fighting ... for the very life of this Society.”¹²¹ The Society employed “trusties” of the Ohio Penitentiary who Galbreath described as generally providing “most valuable service to us in these times when

our funds have been so drastically cut that it would be difficult to get along without their assistance.” He wrote this comment to the parole board in support of a current trustee’s application for parole.¹²² The fight for state funds to sustain the life of the institution was a central issue for him until his death in February 1934.

Aside from Society finances Galbreath was heavily involved in building collections in the library and the museum. He sought after everything that had a connection to Ohio or could be of interest to Ohioans in the form of books, manuscript collections, newspapers, government documents, and artifacts, even a German war plane from World War I.¹²³ The historical society’s collection in the early 1920s was not as extensive as older, more established historical societies. Historian and former OSU faculty member Arthur M. Schlesinger wrote to Galbreath in 1921 saying that “it is my belief that the Society in Columbus has the greatest opportunity of any historical society in the United States in the collecting of historical source material. Unlike most of the other state historical societies, the future of the Ohio organization is not in the past.”¹²⁴

Galbreath wrote to other libraries seeking to exchange copies of journals. This often meant that he would ask for specific titles and offer to send volumes of the Society’s quarterly journal in exchange.¹²⁵ Whenever possible he tried to attract potential donors of specific artifacts or collections with encouraging information about the Society’s expertise in preservation, the fireproof building, and making resources available to the public.

Often Galbreath asked for the assistance of persons who might have influence with potential donors. One notable example was his pursuit of the papers of President Warren G. Harding after his death on August 2, 1923. Several weeks after Harding’s death Galbreath wrote to a friend of Florence Harding to ask if he would set up a meeting at some future date between

Galbreath and Mrs. Harding. Galbreath wanted to discuss how the historical society could provide a secure location for Harding materials for the benefit of visitors and university students.¹²⁶ This demonstrates Galbreath's diligent and confident efforts to obtain important collections without delay. In this case Mrs. Harding donated her husband's papers to the Harding Memorial Association in Marion, Ohio when she died in 1924. The historical society eventually received the papers, totally 250 linear feet, from the association in 1963.

Galbreath's personal interest in the antislavery movement in Ohio enhanced his enthusiasm for building the OSAHS collection on the movement, particularly manuscripts and artifacts related to abolitionist John Brown. Brown was born in Torrington, Connecticut in 1800 and lived during most of his youth in Summit County in northeast Ohio. Also, Galbreath sought collections about Ohioans who were part of Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859. In 1920 he accepted a large collection of Brown relics from a granddaughter of Brown who resided in Put-in-Bay, Ohio. A related gift from a Salem, Ohio resident was the coffin which held the body of Edwin Coppock when it arrived at the home of family in the nearby hamlet of New Garden after his execution as a member of Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry. The family used a different coffin for the actual burial. Edwin and his brother Barclay fought with Brown, but Barclay escaped and was later killed during the Civil War. Galbreath's keen interest was due to his research on Brown and his own family's connection to the Coppock family who lived in Columbiana County before the Civil War. He exchanged letters with living family members of Brown and the Coppock brothers in his search for source material to aid his research on the men and the antislavery movement in Columbiana County.¹²⁷

Building an historical and contemporary newspaper collection at the historical society was one of Galbreath's missions and an important accomplishment. The development of

newspaper collections was not something new at American historical societies or at OSAHS, but Galbreath moved aggressively to build a premier historical newspaper research center in Ohio. In his annual report to the Society in 1922 he expressed the importance of amending an 1850 law that mandated counties subscribe to and retain local newspapers. He wanted all county newspaper collections throughout the state brought together into a single newspaper archive in Columbus. If the Society purchased a photostat machine, library researchers would be able to get copies of articles from newspapers at one location. Also, Galbreath sought newspaper runs from publishers and private holders. In 1927 he asked for the help of Republican U.S. Senator Frank B. Willis to obtain an historical run of the *Ada Record*. Willis had reappointed Galbreath as State Librarian in 1915 when he became governor. Willis wrote to the publisher J. A. Alexander to request the donation of the paper to the historical society as a “personal favor” and the “the right thing” to do. Galbreath expressed his appreciation to Willis when he wrote that “we feel that we can always depend upon you to do the helpful thing in any project in which our society is interested. It is worthwhile to have your influence in our favor.”¹²⁸ It is unclear whether Alexander made the donation, although today OSAHS owns many years of the paper on microfilm.

OSAHS competed with other Ohio historical organizations to collect newspapers. In a letter from September 1921 Galbreath wrote to Mrs. C. C. Helman of East Cleveland, owner of her grandfather’s historical run of the abolitionist and temperance newspaper *The Aurora* published in Lisbon, Columbiana County from 1833-1856. After Galbreath found out that the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland sought the collection and others, he told Helman about “the special advantages of our Society as a repository of all historic records of the state and any of its subdivisions.” On the same day he appealed to Col. G. W. C. Perry, editor of

the *Scioto Gazette*, asking for his help to bring an historical run of the *Gazette* to the Society. Rather than pay for the collection, he proposed that it be offered “as a loan and keep them here subject to your order or order of any of your legal successors.” In his letters for *The Aurora* and the *Gazette*, Galbreath touted the Society’s nonpolitical nature, its fireproof building located on the campus of Ohio State University, and its growing collections and museum dedicated to public access and historical preservation.¹²⁹

Another tactic Galbreath employed to build the Society’s newspaper collection through donations was his appeal to newspaper publishers to donate current issues given the Society’s inadequate budget for subscriptions. By the end of 1928 he noted in a letter to Paul Bellamy, managing editor of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, that thirty-eight daily newspapers and thirty-seven weeklies and semiweeklies were received by the Society compliments of the publishers. The *Plain Dealer* was not among them, and he now appealed to Bellamy to donate daily issues to the Society for historical purposes. He emphasized that the issues “will all be carefully bound and kept here for reference use. We should like to pay the regular subscription price for each these Ohio papers, but at present we are not financially able to do this.” He suggested to Bellamy that the newspaper produce a special “rag paper edition” made with cotton to preserve the life of the paper. The Society would gladly pay the subscription price for a preservation quality edition.¹³⁰

During Galbreath’s first two terms at the State Library he put together a collection of thousands of state documents and bound newspapers mainly from Ohio, but in the years after his departure he learned that these resources were allowed to deteriorate due to poor storage conditions or were discarded due to the library’s lack of space and, in his opinion, poor leadership from State Librarian Herbert Hirshberg. In March 1927, prior to Governor Donahey’s

veto of the State Library budget and its closing, he drafted House Bill 210 that allowed, but did not require, state agencies to send to OSAHS selected documents, books, and manuscripts. In a letter to state senator C. C. Chappellear, Galbreath was harshly critical of Hirshberg for resisting the proposed law and attempting to undermine other Society initiatives that Hirshberg believed to be the purview of the State Library. He explained that “it has been my policy in office and out of it to avoid controversy, but there is a limit to the patience of most people, and I feel that in this matter I have pretty nearly reached the limit.”¹³¹

After Galbreath’s appointment as interim State Librarian he pursued the transfer of documents and newspapers to the Society library. Based on state law and with the approval of the State Library Board, Governor Donahey agreed to separate proposals to transfer historical state documents and 7,000 newspaper volumes to the Society. The transfers would allow greater preservation and public access. The historical society seemed to be the most appropriate location to collect state documents for a future state archive long sought by Galbreath beginning with his time as State Librarian. Critics charged that Galbreath and the historical society were raiding the State Library, but the historical society building, and its future expansion, offered more space for storage and access.¹³²

When Galbreath arrived at OSAHS there were about 200 bound volumes of newspapers. By April 1933, a year before Galbreath’s death, he reported that the collection was 24,845 volumes of newspapers, the third largest collection in the United States, and it was heavily used by OSU students and the public.¹³³ It was the most complete collection of Ohio newspapers available. His diligent work at building the newspaper collection was so successful that in 1929 the Society named the collection for him. The Society voted to approve President Arthur C. Johnson’s proposal to honor Galbreath who “conceived the idea of making our great file

collection of Ohio newspapers, secured the necessary legislationand has brought it to such a happy and successful stage.”¹³⁴ On April 23, 1935, fourteen months after Galbreath’s death, the Society unveiled a bronze plaque with his raised, sculpted image in commemoration of his contribution to the newspaper collection.¹³⁵

In 1929 OSAHS highlighted Galbreath’s life and career in *Museum Echoes*, a newsletter that began in 1928 edited by Galbreath. The article was part of a broader effort to introduce Society officers to the membership. Galbreath refused to participate in writing and editing his own biography, so Associate Editor Harlow Lindley wrote the essay. He noted that Galbreath’s responsibilities had greatly increased since he joined the historical society in 1920. This alludes to Galbreath’s confidence, experience, and expansive interests that projected him more broadly into the work of the Society than the original expectations for his job. Lindley stated that increased popularity of the Society since then was largely due to “the genial personality of its secretary—an entertaining and ready speaker; a most capable and efficient officer; a man of exceedingly broad acquaintanceship, entertaining the respect and good will of all; one of mature judgement molded by more than a half century of contact with his fellowmen in public service.” Such words of praise certainly embarrassed Galbreath given his modesty and refusal to give permission for a sketch of himself to appear in the newsletter. Lindley noted that in Galbreath’s view, for the editor to participate in the publication of his own biographical essay was nothing less than “self-glorification.”¹³⁶

Ohio State University

By the time State Library newspaper and document transfers were in process in 1927 the Society’s building on the campus of Ohio State University expanded to provide more space for

the museum and the library collection. The World War I memorial wing on the north side of the original 1913 building increased the museum space to preserve a huge amount of war related relics and documents. The addition commemorated the service of soldiers, sailors, and marines from Ohio. It was completed in 1926 with the participation of OSU architects and an initial \$47,440 coming from unspent war funds raised at Camp Sherman. These funds were supplemented with \$238,000 appropriated by the Ohio legislature over Governor Donahey's veto.¹³⁷ The state agreed to fund another expansion for the library and archive that opened in 1929.

Galbreath was deeply involved in the work of the building expansions, often communicating with sculptor and former head of OSU's Department of Sculpture (1921-1925), Bruce Wilder Saville, who produced "Victorious Soldier," the World War I memorial statue of a marching soldier placed outside the war memorial addition. Saville also produced a work for the building rotunda, four panel bas-relief bronze sculptures of the soldiers' war experiences. Galbreath viewed the building expansions and the preservation of state government documents as crucial for his goal of creating a state archive, an idea that he proposed when he was State Librarian. With the document transfers, the additional space, and better accounting of documents within state government, Ohio now had an unofficial state archive, but the lack of state funding to operate and increase the space of the archive continued to be a problem for many years.¹³⁸

Professional relationships with OSU faculty and the presence of the Society's museum and library on campus contributed to the close cooperation between the university and the historical society. For example, the Society's Secretary from 1894 to 1919, E. O. Randall, was a professor of law at OSU; William C. Mills, the curator of archaeology and librarian at the

Society, held a B.S. from the university; and in 1925 Professor James S. Hine of the Department of Zoology and Entomology became curator of natural history. Edward Orton, Jr., geologist and the founder and first head of OSU's Department of Ceramic Engineering, was a life member and officer of the Society. Orton served as a trustee and was very involved in designing the war memorial addition to the museum dedicated in 1926. William Oxley Thompson served as a trustee during the years of his OSU presidency from 1899 to 1925 and then until his death on December 9, 1933. Thompson emphasized the close relationships between the Society and the university when he spoke at the annual meeting of OSAHS in 1920. He offered the university's help to make "the history, the early history, of Ohio sacred and beloved by the coming generations."¹³⁹ Galbreath offered a tribute to Thompson at the Trustees meeting in January 1934 and a eulogy published in the April *Quarterly* after his own death.¹⁴⁰

Historians from OSU and other universities in Ohio met in March 1923 to create the Ohio Historical Commission with the idea of improving access to documentary resources for the benefit of research on the state. This was to be a cooperative project with the Society to calendar documents related to Ohio at the national archives in Washington, D.C., gather and publish Ohio primary sources, and create Ohio newspaper checklists. There was a recent precedent for a state commission appointed by Governor James M. Cox in 1918 to collect and preserve documents related the history of Ohio in World War I. Professors Wilbur H. Siebert and Carl Wittke of the OSU History Department communicated with Galbreath to support and help take the lead on the projects proposed by the new commission. Galbreath attended their meetings and generally supported their goals, in addition to his own long held idea of creating an archive of Ohio state documents. He suggested that the probability of publishing documents would increase with funding coming from the Society and OSU.¹⁴¹

The push by OSU faculty to get the full cooperation of the Society to achieve the commission's goals in a timely manner may have gone too far. In October 1923 Galbreath revealed to Harlow Lindley, director of the Indiana Historical Commission and future Society employee, his concerns that there was support within the university to completely absorb the Society and its activities. Although this idea may never have been taken seriously and Galbreath probably exaggerated, the sensitive nature of this subject became apparent at the September 1923 meeting of the Society when some OSU faculty proposed that a group of historians and other academics, selected by the Ohio Historical Commission, directly influence and decide the Ohio history content of the Society's quarterly publication. After Society president Arthur C. Johnson objected to the appearance that the "historical commission wants to run our Society," Siebert withdrew the proposal.¹⁴²

After this meeting it does not appear that any progress was made towards the commission's goals until February 7, 1930 at the Ohio History Conference that brought together representatives of Ohio historical organizations and academic historians to discuss ways to further research in the state's history. As a result of the meeting Johnson appointed seven members to the Committee on Cooperation that included faculty and staff from universities and historical societies. Harlow Lindley, by this time employed by the Society as curator of history collections, was a member of the committee rather than Galbreath, but Galbreath retained a lot of influence in his role as editor of Society publications. The committee took on the same goals of the original commission. After Galbreath reviewed the minutes of the meeting he doubted that much progress could be made in 1930. He later explained at an OSAHS meeting that "your Secretary has been striving to accomplish one thing at a time outside of his regular routine duties" and was not ready to take up a new line of work. At a meeting of the committee held in

November Galbreath announced that two publications were nearly ready as the first volumes of *Ohio Historical Collections*. In fact, both publications that appeared in 1931 were reprints that originally appeared in the Society's quarterly in 1928. Galbreath agreed to appoint an editorial committee consisting of Carl Wittke (OSU), William T. Utter (Denison), and himself.¹⁴³

The Society was generally integrated into OSU campus life, and the school media covered major stories about collections and events of interest to the campus. Students and faculty used the library and museum for their work. In January 1924 T. C. Mendenhall, chairman of the OSU Board of Trustees, presented a proposal for President Thompson to form a committee to cooperate with a similar committee from OSAHS to develop a working policy for "co-operating rather than of competing in certain fields, and for the purpose of a better definition of the function of each agency." OSU's committee would include professors Wilbur H. Siebert of the History Department, Raymond C. Osburn, director of the OSU Stone Lab at Put-in-Bay on Lake Erie, and President Thompson.¹⁴⁴ Although Galbreath was not a member of the Society's parallel committee to explore cooperation, he was probably involved in the Fall 1924 annual meeting proposal calling for the OSU Library's collection in Ohio history to be transferred to the Society's library as a loan so that resources on Ohio history would be consolidated and research made easier. The Society would make purchases in Ohio history and there would be a joint standing committee of Society and OSU representatives to recommend book purchases. The Society approved the proposal at the 1925 meeting, but no mention of this issue appeared in the minutes of the OSU Board of Trustees and no indication that this ever happened.¹⁴⁵

A cooperative proposal that gained the approval of both the Society and OSU trustees in Fall 1925 was the indefinite loan of selected collections held by OSU in the Natural History Museum in the Botany and Zoology Building. Professor Osburn and Professor E. N. Transeau,

chair of the Botany Department, explained at a trustee meeting that the museum room in the building was too small and the department could not properly care for the museum's resources. The Society had the resources to care for and make available "such material as is not being used or which can be better cared for and at the same time better utilized." The loan would free up space for the library in the building.¹⁴⁶ A similar approach was taken by OSU head Librarian Earl Manchester in 1933 when he received approval from the OSU trustees to transfer future newspaper files from OSU Library to the Society "in the interest of more effective public service." The two institutions would come to an agreement for maintenance, preservation, and access. The transfers would create more space in the OSU Library. There is no indication that the OSAHS board formally approved of Manchester's proposal.¹⁴⁷

The Society was well placed to take advantage of OSU print and broadcast media. The OSU student newspaper, *Ohio State Lantern*, referred to Galbreath and other Society notables as faculty who were listed in *Who's Who in America*. Also, it cited his occasional lectures, such as his talk on distinguished Ohio men to engineering students as part of their program to broaden their knowledge of other fields, and a lecture to the Buckeye Press Association conference in 1928 on the historical development of journalism in Ohio.¹⁴⁸ WEO, the campus 500 watt radio station, broadcast the ceremony and speeches at the dedication of the Society's war memorial wing on April 6, 1926. Later that year on Armistice Day, November 11, WEO scheduled Galbreath to read the World War I poem "On Flander's Field" and his response, "The Answer," with musical accompaniment. In 1929 WEO collaborated with WLW in Cincinnati, offering the most powerful radio station signal in the country, to create Ohio School of the Air, and the following year OSU became the meeting location for the Institute of Radio Education. Galbreath delivered at least two educational broadcasts over WEO in January and February 1930. His

topics were “Ohio – The Indian and the White Man,” and “Beginners of Legislative Government in the Northwest Territory.” Broadcasts by other Society speakers focused on topics in anthropology and history. Each talk lasted fifteen minutes as part of the Society’s educational programming for 1930.¹⁴⁹ With these broadcasts over OSU’s radio station the Society and the university collaborated to offer the university community opportunities for education, information, and entertainment.

Reference Service, Editorial Work, and Writing

Galbreath responded to letters with reference questions received from people in Ohio and throughout the country. It is not clear how often he spent time finding the answers to the many genealogical, factual, and interpretive questions addressed to him or the Society, but he responded to a huge number of reference inquiries himself in a thorough, sympathetic tone. If the Society had information to offer, Galbreath cited specific sources, often state and county histories, genealogical materials, government documents, newspapers, and historical pamphlets. Although the responses give the impression that Galbreath had broad knowledge of sources, it is very likely that a reference librarian or one of the library assistants researched most of the questions and provided the findings to Galbreath for his correspondence. To a woman asking for references to early thanksgiving celebrations in Ohio, he informed her about a 1788 Christmas proclamation from Governor St. Clair of the Northwest Territory, as well as diaries and travel accounts in the Ohio Country and an 1839 address on Christmas day that were part of the library’s collection. Another woman sought information about her great, great grandfather, Hiram M. Curry, who was the State Treasurer of Ohio from 1816 to 1820. Galbreath wrote back explaining that little information could be found on Curry in histories of Champaign and Union

counties where he resided aside from being cited for performing marriages and serving in the state legislature, but an abundance of information on his family was available. Galbreath mentioned Curry was forced out of office as State Treasurer due to embezzlement charges. The state took Curry's land to pay for the loss, but no indictment is mentioned. Curry moved to Indiana where he was able to be admitted to the bar.¹⁵⁰

In addition to corresponding with the public seeking information, other highly visible and public activities of Galbreath's job at the historical society were editing, writing, and publishing the quarterly journal *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. Under various titles the historical society published the journal from 1887 until 2004. From its beginnings through Galbreath's period the journal served Society members, scholars, and the public with the publication of scholarly articles and primary source materials related to the history and anthropology of Ohio and the Northwest Territory. Often book length works appeared as part of a single issue. The minutes of the Society's annual meeting, compiled or written by the Secretary, were published in the quarterly along with information about important events and activities of the Society, brief notes on historical topics, reviews, and tributes and memorials to members who made important contributions to the Society's work. The editor contributed various pieces in each issue.

Galbreath followed in a similar manner as his predecessor, E. O. Randall, by writing lengthy articles and brief biographical pieces, and editing document collections that appeared in the *Quarterly*. His articles, written clearly in a scholarly tone, often follow his interests in Ohio history related to anti-slavery activities, journalism, and state government. His "Anti-Slavery Movement in Columbiana County" in 1921 covered information dear to him about the participation of his own family and Quaker influences. In 1925 he published "Ohio's Fugitive

Slave Law” on its passage in May 1839 and Ohioans’ gradual resistance to it, and “Thomas Jefferson’s Views on Slavery,” in which he concluded that Jefferson opposed the extension of slavery into the Northwest Territories in the 1780s, believed in distant colonization to separate the races, and might have approved the elimination of slavery in the slave states despite having slaves himself. Galbreath often inserted extensive quotations from sources and relied on newspapers and documents as the basis for his historical writing. In Galbreath’s lengthy article on John Brown he reviews previous biographies of Brown and liberally quotes from letters and speeches to demonstrate Brown’s influence in America and abroad following the Harpers Ferry raid.¹⁵¹ Lengthy collections of documents focused on Marquis de Lafayette’s visit to Ohio in 1824-1825 in which Galbreath offered a narrative with extensive quotations and documents and in 1922 a compilation of accounts and addresses in Ohio from centennial celebrations of Ulysses S. Grant’s birth.¹⁵²

In 1925 Galbreath published *History of Ohio* in five volumes that has information up to the end of World War I. Apparently this was a personal project apart from his work at OSAHS, but some of his colleagues participated. The title is misleading because volumes 1-2 offer a compilation of topical chapters that have narrative and data that do not attempt to give a comprehensive history of the state. There are long chapters with descriptions of every county in the state and every administration of each governor, and several chapters on Ohio constitutions, the Ohio underground railroad, and the antislavery movement in the state. There are various contributing authors, but it is assumed that Galbreath wrote or compiled most of the work, including the biographies. Volumes 3-5 contain brief biographical essays of mainly prominent, contemporary white men. The biographies are in random order, so the only way to find a particular name is to use the index which appears only in volume 1. This work is a compilation

of information that is closer to a reference work than a conventional history of the state.

Galbreath did not provide a clear purpose for the project in the preface and introduction, nor did he explain a criterion for choosing persons described in the biographical volumes. No bibliography is provided. Although the work has been cited numerous times, the only review of the book was highly critical. Elbert J. Benton, an historian of U.S. and Cleveland history at Adelbert College in Cleveland, criticized nearly every aspect of the work, particularly the publisher, misleading title, poor organization, and lack of appropriate space given to different topics. “In most respects it is a hasty, unorganized, uncritical compilation.”¹⁵³

As editor he considered and processed manuscripts received from authors and worked with the printers to publish the journal at regular intervals. Galbreath’s correspondence do not contain very many letters reflecting his policies for approving and editing manuscripts. In one case in 1928 he rejected a book length manuscript, “Ohio in National Politics, 1865-1896,” by Professor Clifford H. Moore of Ripon College. Wilbur H. Siebert from the OSU History Department proposed the manuscript to Galbreath in 1926 and that seemed to be enough reason to process the manuscript without reading it closely. He told Moore that the manuscript was “splendidly documented and evidences industrious research,” but after reading through the manuscript just before it was to be published, he decided that readers would respond very negatively to the author’s criticisms of Senator John Sherman, Congressman and President James A. Garfield, and Governor Charles Foster. He concluded that Moore’s depiction of the men as “insincere, scheming and unreliable politicians, unswayed by moral considerations” in their quest of power were either not proven or were the author’s opinion. Ohioans might respond harshly to what appeared to be the Society’s approval of the Moore’s views. The content “may be historically true, but no good purpose could be served by publishing them in the *Quarterly* of

our Society.” Even though Moore had critical remarks about Republicans and Democrats, Galbreath explained “I greatly fear, however, that in this form it would not be more palatable to the average Ohio reader.” Although Moore expressed surprise and disappointment in the decision and also the long wait to hear from Galbreath, he revised the manuscript and it was published in the *Quarterly* in 1928.¹⁵⁴ This incident was a clear indication that the quarterly journal was not peer reviewed and the editor was subject to public opinion about the contents. Perhaps the editorial committee requested by the Ohio Historical Commission in 1923 indicated disappointment with the quality of the Society’s journal. In 1931 two Ohio academic historians from OSU and Denison joined Galbreath to form an editorial committee.

Historical Commemorations and Public Speaking

Galbreath’s public stature as a leader among Ohioans deeply interested in the history of their state often led to invitations to speak at public events or serve with various organizations. In November 1925 the Ohio History Day Association elected him to its board of trustees with the assumption that he agreed with the association’s goals “to stimulate in the people of Ohio an interest in the early history of their state and foster a love of truth, patriotism and progression.” The association began in 1923 with sponsorship by the Society along with the McGuffey societies of Chillicothe, Columbus, and Gahanna, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sons of the American Revolution. The annual history day event at this time focused on native Americans in Ohio. The *Columbus Dispatch* cited Galbreath for his participation at the celebration on October 5, 1924 when more than 6,000 people attended. Historical commemorations led to additional speaking opportunities. In November 1925 Galbreath offered historical background and memorials at the old Fort St. Clair in Preble County for the

commemoration of six men who died as part of a U.S. territorial militia in a battle with Miami Indians led by Chief Little Turtle on November 6, 1792.¹⁵⁵

One of the larger historical commemorations that Galbreath contributed to as part of his job was the bicentennial of George Washington's birth on February 22, 1932. The federal government and many states planned activities in honor of Washington, and activities were in preparation a year or more before that day. On Washington's birthday in 1931 the *Dispatch* outlined some of the preparations but most of the article consisted of Galbreath's statement about Washington's connection with Ohio based on Washington's own diary. He offered a description of Washington's exploration of the Ohio River and its tributaries with a small group in October 1770. The purposes of the mission were to gather information on the area and assess the challenges ahead for white settlement in the river valley. After the war with Great Britain Washington pursued personal land claims in what is now Claremont County, Ohio and promoted the idea of a canal from the Ohio River to Lake Erie.¹⁵⁶

During the year prior to the anniversary in 1932 Galbreath and the event manager, O. K. Reames, led a successful effort to organize a reenactment of Washington's voyage on the Ohio River that included ten men portraying Washington, his aides, and Indian servants traveling in a powered flat boat and Indian canoe. The trip covered 232 miles from what is now East Liverpool, Ohio to Point Pleasant, West Virginia where the Kanawha River flows into the Ohio River. The project proved to be a major logistical effort, and it was very difficult for Galbreath to raise sufficient funding given the ongoing economic depression. There were doubts that the event would take place. On January 20, 1932, a month before the event, Galbreath delivered a lengthy address on Cincinnati's WLW radio station about Washington's interest in western lands, his journey on the Ohio River, and the planned reenactment and bicentennial celebration.

He told listeners “Our entire State should enter with enthusiasm into the spirit of this celebration in honor of the man whose faith and courage did so much to found government that has stood the test of time and today leads the world in wealth and prestige and power. In no state should that spirit be more manifest than in our own Ohio; Ohio, the heart of our peerless and invincible Republic.”¹⁵⁷

In November Galbreath described to historian Archer Butler Hulbert how the reenactment of Washington’s voyage was successful, despite the lack of participation from Pennsylvania where the original voyage on the Ohio River began in 1770. Crowds on the riverbanks in Ohio and West Virginia observed the two boats going by and held local events. In Ohio thousands of people flocked to places like Marietta and Mingo Junction south of Steubenville to view the boats and celebrate Washington’s 200th birthday. Galbreath estimated that “more than 100,000 must have seen the boats on their way down the river.”¹⁵⁸

The promotion of the Washington bicentennial and Galbreath’s established credentials as “a well-known authority on Ohio history” led to additional speaking engagements in the months after the event in February 1932. In March the Rationalist Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution invited him to speak at separate events about Washington in Ohio. The Franklin County Pioneer Association, of which Galbreath was the current president, invited him to speak on the same topic at its April meeting. Also, in April the *Dispatch* announced that he would speak at the 144th anniversary of the landing at what became Marietta in 1788 making it the first settlement in the Northwest Territory.¹⁵⁹

Ohio Lyricists, Poetry

During his first period as State Librarian Galbreath became known for research on popular Ohio song writers and his poetry compositions. During 1904 and 1905 he published articles on popular Ohio lyricists Daniel Decatur Emmett, Benjamin Russel Hanby, Will Lamartine Thompson, Coates Kinney, and H. D. L. Webster with a focus on their authorship of well known songs.¹⁶⁰ The article that had the greatest impact was about Emmett who was from Mount Vernon, Ohio. Galbreath clarified that Emmett was the original author and publisher of the lyrics and music to “Dixie” or “Dixie Land” in 1859. The song became the anthem for the Confederacy and the Lost Cause, and very popular for blackface minstrels from 1859 through the 20th century. Galbreath’s research on “Dixie” originally appeared in the *Baltimore Sun* in response to a claim that the song was written by Harry McCarthy of Arkansas.¹⁶¹ This was not the first time the song was attributed to Emmett but Galbreath’s article provided the evidence.

Poetry composition was an avocation for Galbreath and he was an active member and leader of the Verse-Writers Guild in Columbus. Occasionally the *Columbus Dispatch* published his work and he read his poems at gatherings of the Guild and the poetry study group of the Columbus Women’s Club. His most widely celebrated poem appeared in 1918 as a lament to the heroic soldiers who fought and died on the fields of Flanders in World War I. In “An Answer” Galbreath responded to the 1915 poem published in *Punch*, “In Flanders Fields,” by Lt. Col. John McCrae of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, who died in France from illness in 1918. McCrae’s poem about the sacrifice of his soldiers became “the most popular poem on the First World War.”¹⁶² Galbreath’s response appeared with McCrae’s poem numerous times in newspapers, the *Congressional Record*, and poetry anthologies, and the two poems were set to

music by composer Mentor Crosse. His dramatic style is illustrated in “In Flanders Fields: An Answer” dated February 10, 1918.

In Flanders fields the cannon boom
 And fitful flashes light the gloom,
 While up above, like eagles, fly
 The fierce destroyers of the sky;
 With stains the early wherein you lie
 Is redder than the poppy bloom,
 In Flanders fields.

Sleep on, ye brave. The shrieking shell,
 The quaking trench, the startled yell,
 The fury of the battle hell
 Shall wake you not; for all is well.
 Sleep peacefully; for all is well

Your flaming torch aloft we bear,
 With burning heart an oath we swear
 To keep the faith, to fight it through
 To crush the foe or sleep with you
 In Flanders fields.¹⁶³

In 1948 the two poems by McCrae and Galbreath were quoted by journalist Payton Gray to show that Black soldiers experienced and suffered the same as white soldiers and for the same ideals in World War II, but the country denied Black soldiers the benefits of their ultimate sacrifice. Black soldiers from Baltimore who died in the war were buried “into a jim-crow corner” of the Baltimore National Cemetery.¹⁶⁴

Galbreath published a collection of his poetry in 1919. Most of the poems express the heroism and patriotism of American soldiers in World War I inspired by the deaths of Ohio soldiers in the fighting and the service of his son, Albert, who was in Europe with the 12th Engineers Division. His war poetry, written in dramatic, descriptive rhyme, avoids glorifying war, but focuses instead on the human price of defeating the enemy and the joy of final victory. In early 1920 he sent out autographed copies of the book to friends who responded with words of thanks and praise for the work.¹⁶⁵ Other poems showed his enthusiasm for his home state as

illustrated in the first stanza of “Ohio,” a poem he completed in 1931 and read to a joint meeting of the Ohio History Conference and the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society:

“Ohio, bounteous state,
Home of the fair and great,
We hail they name!
Star of the Middle West,
Gem in the Nation’s crest,
Land that we love the best
We sing they fame!”¹⁶⁶

Death and Legacy

On February 23, 1934 Charles B. Galbreath died at his home from pneumonia after a six day illness, two days before his 76th birthday. A service was officiated at a local mortuary by Rev. Charles G. Baird, rector of the St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church located by the Ohio State University campus a few blocks from where Galbreath worked at the OSAHS building until his death. It is unclear if Galbreath had an association with the church or a friendship with Baird born of associations around campus.¹⁶⁷

The director of OSAHS and former curator of archaeology, Henry C. Shetrone, described Galbreath in a eulogy at the Kit Kat Club of Columbus, a social and discussion group to which both men belonged. Shetrone emphasized his colleague as “so virile in mind and body, he seemed, so calm and philosophic in the midst of life’s limitations and uncertainties; his unhurried manner, his resonant voice and his many mannerisms (as the boyish scratching of the head in perplexity) seeming to defy or rather to ignore change and the passing of time.” He delighted in referring to “C. B.” as he was known, for his lunchtime habit of eating breakfast cereal and a bottle of milk.¹⁶⁸

In the *Ohio State Lantern* student newspaper at OSU, the regular columnist, The Idler, later revealed to be Professor William (Billy) Graves from the English Department, offered remembrances. As with others who knew Galbreath, there was the admiration of his sincere kindness and “a mingling of simplicity and nobility very rare indeed.” To Graves and many other people, he seemed Lincolnesque in his tall and strong physical stature, “eloquence in emotions and sensitive in expression,” and outlook on life marked by humanity. Yet he emphasized that there was another side to Galbreath’s personality. “There was no sentimental softness about him, and at times he could be a stern man” who had no patience for “shiftlessness... insincerity... selfishness...[and] shallow ambition.”¹⁶⁹ These words described a man who possessed values of what Graves referred to as “old school of gentlemen, scholars, and leaders.” His values and great self confidence provided a foundation for successfully administering institutions and projects in public service. Graves’ familiarity with Galbreath illustrates, as do the many references to the man in other issues of the college newspaper, that he did not isolate himself in the OSAHS building but instead became part of campus life and made many friends among faculty and students.

The *Columbus Dispatch* published new poems written by friends in Galbreath’s memory and the poems were reprinted in the OSAHS newsletter, *Museum Echoes*, several weeks after his death. These poems provide a summary of the deep feelings for him held by friends and colleagues in the Verse Writers’ Guild in Columbus. The poems highlighted the man as a dear friend whose kindness, love, and determination to defeat life’s adversities would have a lasting impact on people who knew him.¹⁷⁰

Charles B. Galbreath should be remembered for his important role in advancing education, libraries, and public policy. His liberalized Quaker upbringing and self-confidence,

knowledge of history, music, and poetry, communication skills, and a natural charismatic personality were keys to his approach to work and life. He had the ability and skill to work with a wide range of public officials, whether they were Democrats or Republicans. He sought to balance rural and urban values that he experienced to improve the lives of all Ohioans, but his close association with rural Columbiana County persisted throughout his life. He was an enthusiastic promoter of reading and books statewide to provide greater access to learning about ideas and the world. Galbreath sought to spread his enthusiasm for his home state through a variety of resources for public education about Ohio's past. He worked to create a large newspaper archive, collect Ohio government documents into an official state archive, find unique artifacts for the OSAHS museum, and engage in large scale reenactments for public learning and enjoyment. The power of his tireless and determined personality and leadership as administrator at both the State Library and the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society enhanced their collections and services to the public and improved their standing as vital institutions for learning in Ohio.

Endnotes

- ¹ For example, *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 25 (New York: J.T. White, 1936), 112 - 113; Charles Burleigh Galbreath, "Ohio: A Four-Volume Reference Library on the History of a Great State" (Chicago: Lewis Publishing, 1937), 422-424; Sidney Cohen, "Biographical Data on the Librarians of the Ohio State Library 1817-1960," MA Thesis, Kent State University, 1961, 67-75; *American National Biography*, 8 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 627-628 (revised in online edition).
- ² "Historical Investigator Enjoys Research Work," *Columbus Dispatch* (November 11, 1922), 2. Includes illustrations of Charles Galbreath, realistic and cartoonish.
- ³ Burton Stevenson to Charles B. Galbreath, June 2, 1926, 3044/18/51, *Secretary, Editor, and Librarian's Correspondence Files, 1920-1946* [henceforth referred to as *SELC Files*], State Archive, Ohio History Connection [henceforth referred to as *OHC*].; Charles B. Galbreath to Burton Stevenson. June 14, 1926. 3044/18/51, *SELC Files*, State Archive, OHC.
- ⁴ Charles B. Galbreath to Mrs. C. S. Van Winkle, April 17, 1923, 3044/14/21, *SELC Files*, State Archive, OHC. See also Charles B. Galbreath to George F. Gilbreath, October 14, 1921, 3044/12/19, *SELC Files*, State Archive, OHC.
- ⁵ Charles B. Galbreath, "Anti-Slavery Movement in Columbiana County," *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* 30 (October 1921), 355-395. See also *History of Columbiana County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, edited and compiled by William D. McCord (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1905), 278.
- ⁶ Charles B. Galbreath to Frederick W. Hart. July 23, 1920. 3044/12/8, *SELC Files*, State Archive, OHC. See also Charles B. Galbreath to Rev. J. L. Coppock, November 23, 1920. 3044/12/3, *SELC Files*, State Archive, OHC.
- ⁷ "Donations," *Anti-Slavery Bugle* 13, 5(September 19, 1857); "Donations." *Anti-Slavery Bugle* 7, 50(September 4, 1852); "Pledges," *Anti-Slavery Bugle* 6, 51(September 6, 1851). Obtained from the database *Slavery and Anti-Slavery*, Gale provided by Ohio State University Libraries. Accessed September 10, 2021
- ⁸ "Many Interesting Incidents in the Life of Late Dr. C.T. Mendenhall are Recalled," *Columbus Dispatch* (March 30, 1924), 32 in which Charles Galbreath discusses stories of his family.
- ⁹ Ryan P. Jordan, *Slavery and the Meetinghouse* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007), 99, 124-125 (quote).
- ¹⁰ Charles B. Galbreath to Mrs. R. E. Cone, March 23, 1923, 3044/14/8, *SELC Files*, State Archive, OHC.
- ¹¹ Proceedings of the Ohio Yearly Meeting of Progressive Friends, held in Salem, from the 5th to the 7th of ninth month, inclusive 1852 (Salem: G.P. Smith, 1852). Obtained from the database *Slavery and Anti-Slavery*, Gale. Provided by Ohio State University Libraries. Accessed October 22, 2020. See also Christopher Densmor, "Radical Quaker Women and the Early Women's Rights Movement," *Quakers & Slavery*, http://web.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/commentary/themes/radical_quaker_women.php ; "Proceedings of the Ohio Yearly Meeting of Progressive Friends," *The Anti-Slavery Bugle* (New-Lisbon, Ohio), Vol. 11, # 8 (October 06, 1855). Obtained from the database *Slavery and Anti-Slavery*, Gale. OSU Libraries. (Viewed October 22, 2020.)
- ¹² "Charles Burleigh Galbreath," *Columbus Dispatch* (February 25, 1934), Editorial, 4; "Charles Burleigh Galbreath," *Museum Echoes* 7 (April 1934), 1; Columbus Rationalist Society, In Memorium, February 23, 1934, MSS 256/1/1, *C. B. Galbreath Papers*, State Archive, OHC
- ¹³ *Friends Intelligencer* 60 (March 28, 1903), 764.
- ¹⁴ *Friends Intelligencer* 61 (March 26, 1904), 207. Galbreath delivered a second presentation on Whittier at a Columbus Friends Association meeting in December 1907. This is only noted in *Friends Intelligencer* 65(January 4, 1908), 11.

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- ¹⁵ Charles Burleigh Galbreath, "The Religion of John Greenleaf Whittier," Proceedings of the Friends General Conference, Mountain Lake Park, Maryland, *Friends Intelligencer Supplement* (November 3, 1906), 117.
- ¹⁶ Charles B. Galbreath, "Shall the State Kill?" Proceedings of the Friends General Conference, Mountain Lake Park, Maryland, *Friends Intelligencer Supplement* (November 3, 1906), 50-55.
- ¹⁷ "Society News of the Day," *Columbus Dispatch* (March 21, 1916), 12; "Club Calendar for Tomorrow," *Columbus Dispatch* (April 10, 1917), 13.
- ¹⁸ *Unity* 60(December 26, 1907), 259-260; *Unity* 60(January 9, 1908), 292-293.
- ¹⁹ Mark Philp, "Thomas Paine", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2019 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2019/entries/paine/>
- ²⁰ Columbus Rationalist Society, In Memorium, February 23, 1934, MSS 256/1/1, State Archive, OHC.
- ²¹ "Charles Burleigh Galbreath," *Museum Echoes* 7 (April 1934), 15.
- ²² "Charles Burleigh Galbreath," *Ohio: A Four-Volume Reference Library on the History of a Great State*, 422-424; Willia D. Cotton, "A Tribute to Charles Burleigh Galbreath." Read before the Women's Centennial Association, April 1, 1935, VFM 6239, State Archive, OHC.
- ²³ "Educational Intelligence," *Journal of Education* 38 (October 5, 1893), 228, col. 4.
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- ²⁵ "In Behalf of the Insurgents," *Columbus Daily Enquirer* (December 16, 1896); "Librarian Galbreath Has Sympathy for Cubans," *Columbus Dispatch* (December 15, 1896), 7; "Republican Party Platform of 1896," *The American Presidency Project*, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/republican-party-platform-1896>
- ²⁶ "Fidel G. Pierra," *Columbus Dispatch* (December 13, 1897), 5. See also another letter from Pierra to Galbreath in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (March 21, 1898), 1, 8 explaining why the payment of an indemnity to Spain for Cuban freedom is financially unreasonable for the future of Cuba.
- ²⁷ "His Enemies Busy," *Chicago Daily Tribune* (December 25, 1897), 6; "Beat Hanna," *Cleveland Leader* (December 29, 1897), 1-2.
- ²⁸ Joseph Foraker to C. B. Galbreath (March 26, 1901) in MSS 256/1/1, *C. B. Galbreath Papers*, State Archive, OHC.
- ²⁹ Myron T. Herrick to C. B. Galbreath (January 6, 1916), (January 19, 1916), (August 17, 1916), OHC, MSS 256/1/1, *C. B. Galbreath Papers*, State Archive, OHC.
- ³⁰ Alan J. DeYoung, *Dilemmas of Rural Life and Livelihood: Academics and Community, Working Paper* (Appalachian Collaborative Center for Learning, Assessment and Instruction in Mathematics, 2002), 1-4. ERIC Document: [ED471920](https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED471920).
- ³¹ Wayne A. Wiegand, *Part of Our Lives: A People's History of the American Public Library* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 94-95, 104.
- ³² Regarding Ohio see Frances Mildred Battles, "An Account of the Development of the Public Library Movement in Ohio...", MA Thesis, University of Illinois, 1928, 175-180, 191.
- ³³ Gratia A. Countryman, "Travelling Libraries as a First Step in Library Development," *Library Journal* 30 (1905), 57-58; Wayne A. Wiegand, *Part of Our Lives*, 82-83; "Joanne E. Passet, "Reaching the Rural Reader: Traveling Libraries in America, 192-1920," *Libraries & Culture* 26, 1(Winter 1991), 100-118.
- ³⁴ *Librarianship in Gilded Age America: An Anthology of Writings 1868-1901*, edited by Leonard Schlup and Stephen H. Paschen (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2009), 2-3.
- ³⁵ Melvil Dewey, Broadening the State Libraries," *Public Libraries* 11 (January 1906), 22. The same month Dewey's remarks were published he resigned from the New York State Library under pressure for his antisemitic remarks and his founding and continuing close association with the Lake Placid Club in New York that explicitly excluded Jews. Despite the exposure of these developments in the library press, the library community continued to focus on his contributions to library development. See Wayne Wiegand, "'Jew Attack': The Story behind Melvil Dewey's Resignation as New York State Librarian in 1905," *American Jewish History* 83(September 1995),

- 359-379. See also C. B. Galbreath to Melvil Dewey, December 5, 1925, Box 3, Melvil Dewey, Personal Correspondence, Columbia University Library Special Collections; and "2019 Year in Review," *American Libraries*, <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2020/01/02/2019-year-review/>
- ³⁶ *The Annotated Revised Statutes of The State of Ohio, Including All Laws of a General Nature in Force, January 1, 1898*, Edited and annotated by Clement Bates. v.1, p 249-250. Title III, Chapter 12, Sections 342-353. Quote from Section 348.
- ³⁷ "The State Library," *Columbus Dispatch* (April 2, 1896), 4. See also Sidney Cohen, "Biographical Data on the Librarians of the Ohio State Library 1817-1960," 67-71.
- ³⁸ "State Librarians of Ohio Timeline," <https://library.ohio.gov/about/state-librarian-board/>
- ³⁹ Ohio State Library, ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1908* (Springfield, Oh.: Springfield Publishing, 1909), 22-29; ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1909* (Springfield, Oh.: Springfield Publishing, 1910), 8-9. The 1908 annual report included a long list and data on public and private institution libraries throughout the state.
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- ⁴⁵ Ohio State Library, ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1901* (Columbus: Fred J. Heer, 1902), 5-6. On space issues see ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1899* (Columbus: Westbote, 1900), 7-8.
- ⁴⁶ Ohio State Library, ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1897* (Norwalk, Oh.: Laning, 1898), 7-8; Ohio State Library, ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1896*, 9
- ⁴⁷ *Ohio State Journal* (April 1, 1906) from Traveling Libraries, MSS 2829, VOL 1577, State Archive, OHC.
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- ⁵⁰ *Honey Jar* 7, 1 (April 1906), 41, 42 (quote).
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- ⁵² Ohio State Library, ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1897*, 9-12.
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- ⁵⁶ Ohio State Library, ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1904* (Columbus: F.J. Heer, 1905), 10, 12; ...*Annual Report...November 15, 1910* [Executive Documents], 369-371, 382.
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- ⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 82-83.
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- ⁸⁰ "Harmon Appointees Tremble at Cox Ax," *Cleveland Leader* (June 9, 1913), 3; *The Western Star* [Lebanon, Ohio] (May 4, 1911), 1; *Papers and Proceedings of the Thirty-Third Annual Meeting of the American Library Association* (Chicago: ALA, 1911), 217. See also "State Librarian Galbreath Steps Out Next July," *Columbus Dispatch* (April 14, 1911), 21, 3.
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- ⁹⁶ C. B. Galbreath to J. L. Gillis" in *Proceedings of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Library Association*, 323. Due to the absence of annual reports from the State Library and papers produced by the State Librarian, details of Galbreath's activities during his second term are not available.
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